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SOIL［ソイル］4 カネコアツシ

SOIL ソイル

④CONTENTS

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Main Characters

Onoda ..... Kamikawa Station police officer.

Yokoi ..... Sergeant as above. Onoda's boss.

Tamura ..... Detective as above.

Katakuri ..... Soil New Town police officer.

Ichinose ..... Katakuri's co-worker. **Disappeared.**

Masaki Suzushiro ..... Family father living in Soil New Town. **Disappeared.**

Noriko Suzushiro ..... His wife. **Disappeared.**

Mizuki Suzushiro ..... Their daughter. Soil Middle School 8th grader. **Disappeared.**

Kento Miyahara ..... A teenager raised in a fatherless family. Soil Middle School 8th grader.

Tomiyama ..... Soil Middle School 8th grader.

Seki ..... Soil Middle School 8th grader.

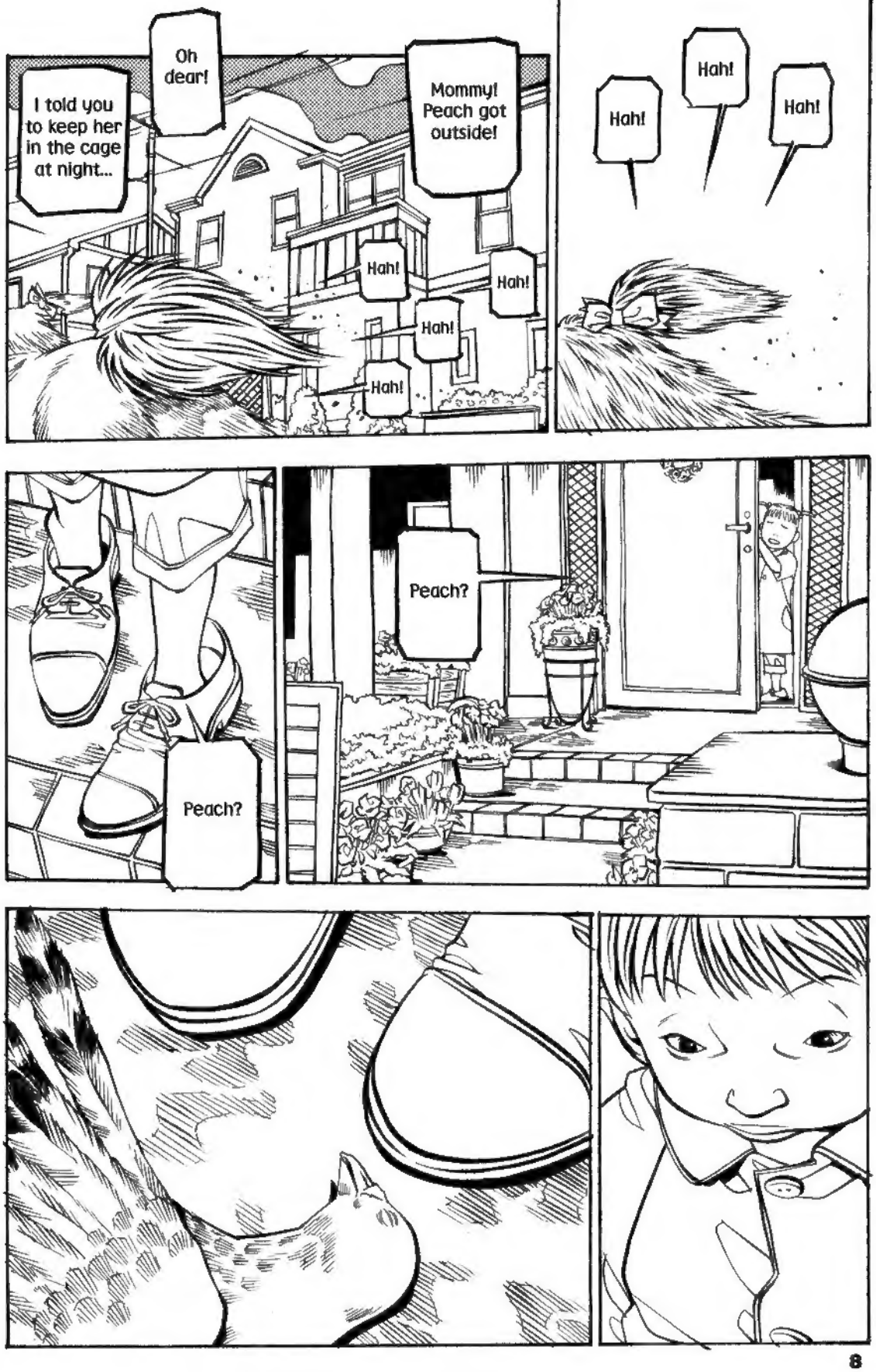
Tokita ..... Soil Middle School, temporary science instructor.

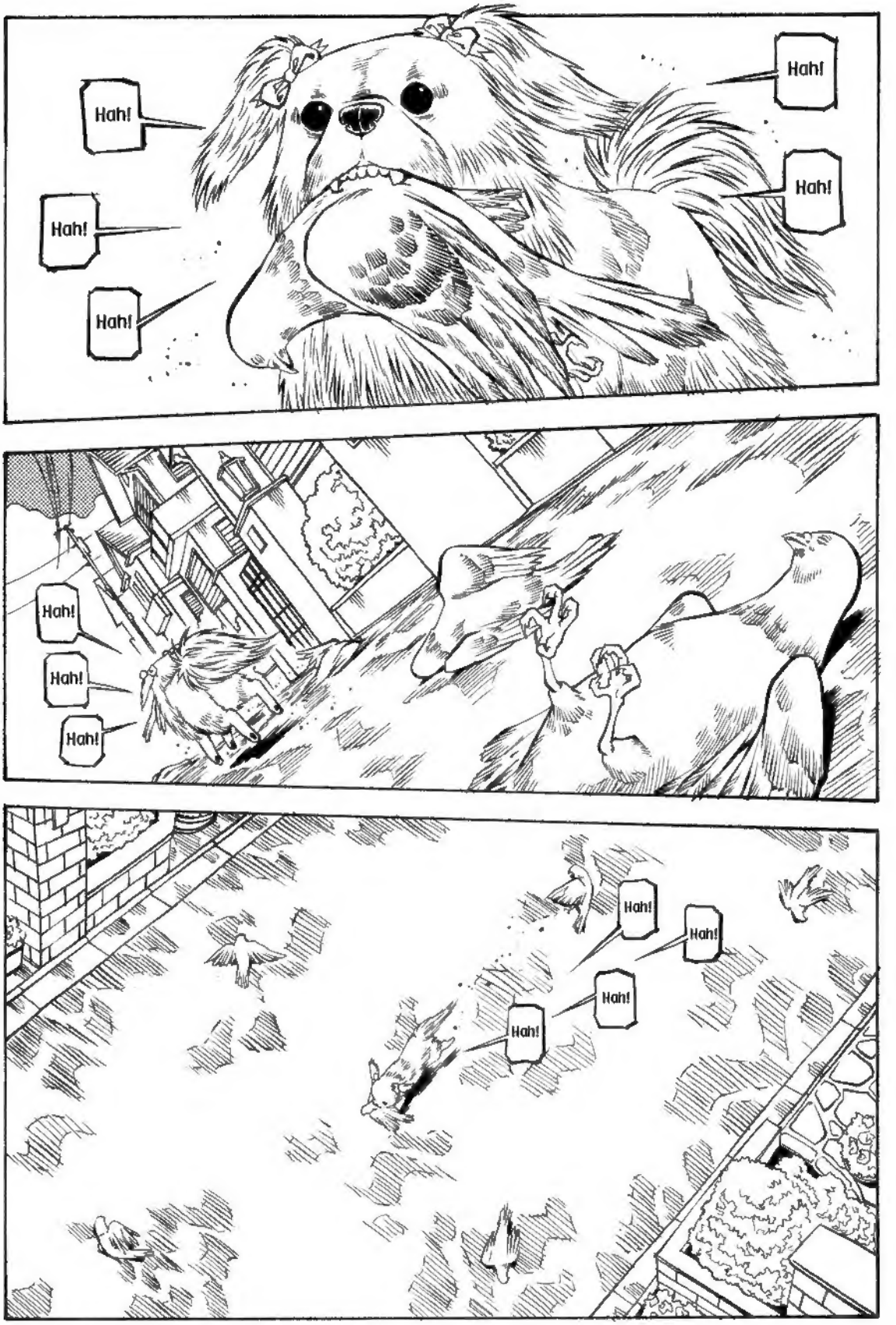
Kosaka ..... Soil Middle School, school counselor.

"Miss Sayuri" ..... An old woman living in the shrine ruins located on the town outskirts.

"Council President" .... Soil New Town Council President. **Murdered by Kento Miyahara's mother.**

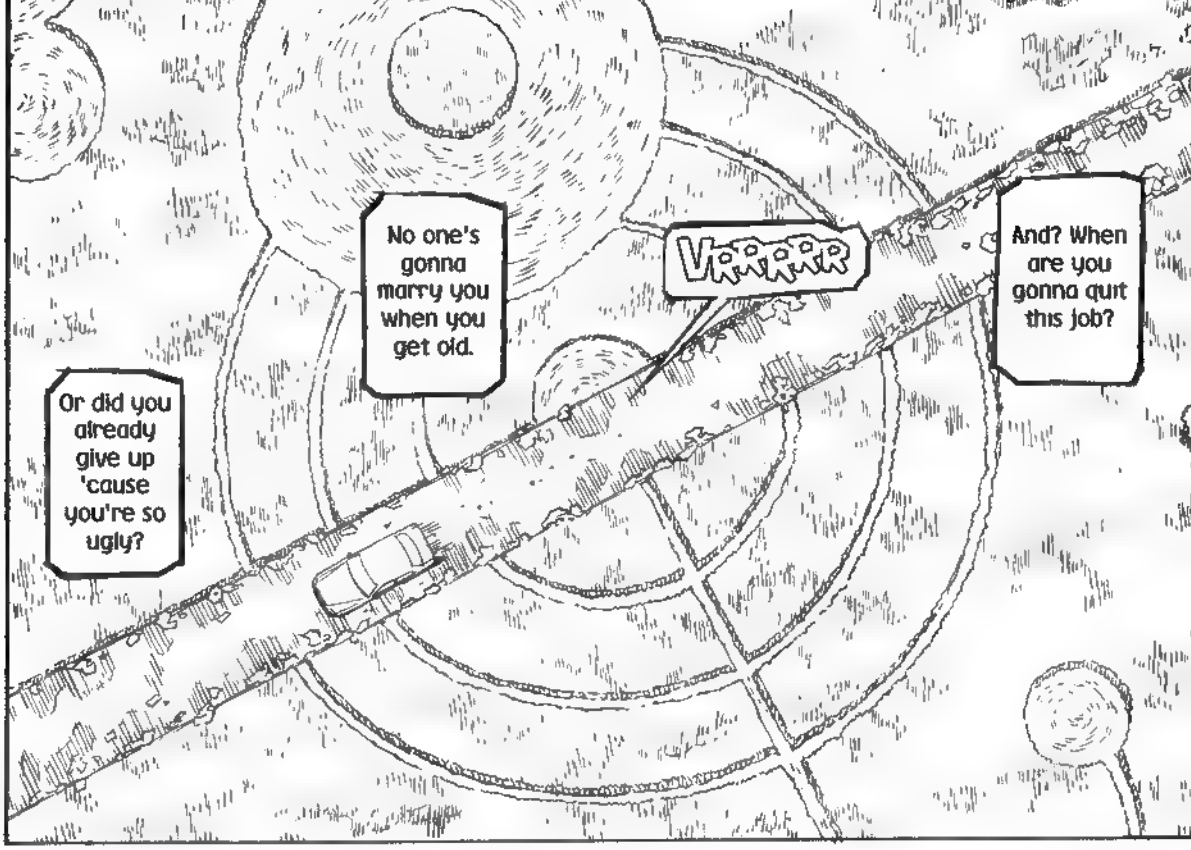
Rawr!
Rawr!
Rawr!
Rawr!
Rawr!
Rawr!
Ruff!
Ruff!
Ruff!
Bark!
Bark!
Woof!
Woof!
Woof!
Woof!
Woof!
This is giving me a head-ache!
Ruff! Ruff!
It's still this early?
Rawr! Rawr!
I can't sleep.
Ruby! Quiet down!
Woof! Woof!
What's going on this morning?
Grrr...


I told you to keep her in the cage at night...
Oh dear!
Mommy! Peach got outside!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Peach?
Peach?


Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!

Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!

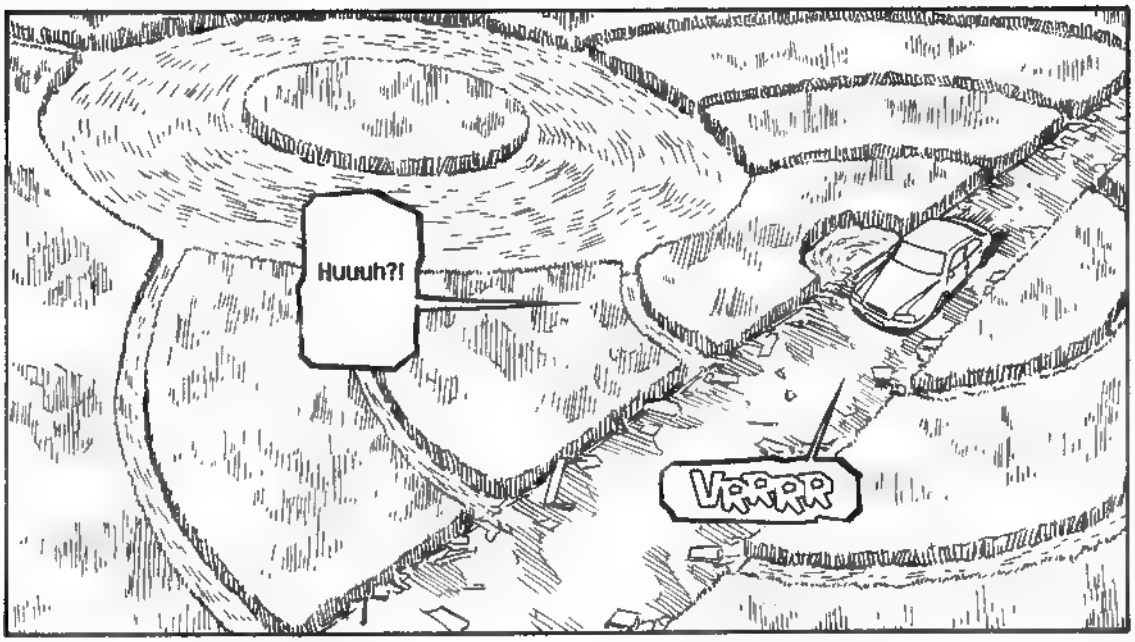
BLOCK 2-4
Onoda.
Yes, sir?
How old are you, again?
ゴオオオ
Um, well...
[Anomalies]
I-I...
I turned 27 last month, sir.


No one's gonna marry you when you get old.
VARRRR
And? When are you gonna quit this job?
Or did you already give up 'cause you're so ugly?

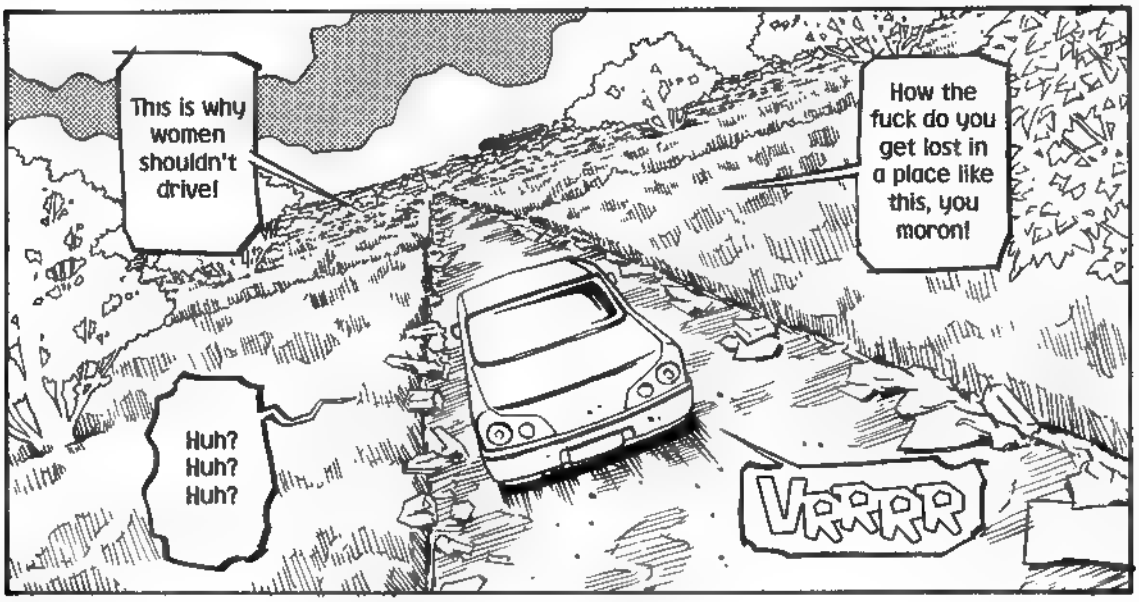
Bah!
RUB
RUB
RUB
Th-that qualifies as sexual harassment, Sergeant Yokoi.

You know you're not cut out to be a detective, don't you?
Why don't you just give up already?
VARRRR

That crap is out of our jurisdiction.
Hmph... You mean the "alien salt?"
DUB
DUB
...th-the real "man with scales" must be hiding somewhere...
A-a-and there are still so many "riddles" that need to be solved...
I-I was wrong in suspecting Mr. Tokita, but...
Every "riddle" can be solved...
DUB
DUB
I-I-I still believe that everything about this case can be explained logically.
Just makes me wanna give up on everything.
How long is this heat wave gonna last?!
SNIFF
SNIFF
Huh?!
A-a-above all, we need to uncover the whereabouts of the Suzushiros and Officer Ichinose as soon as--
Yaaaawn!

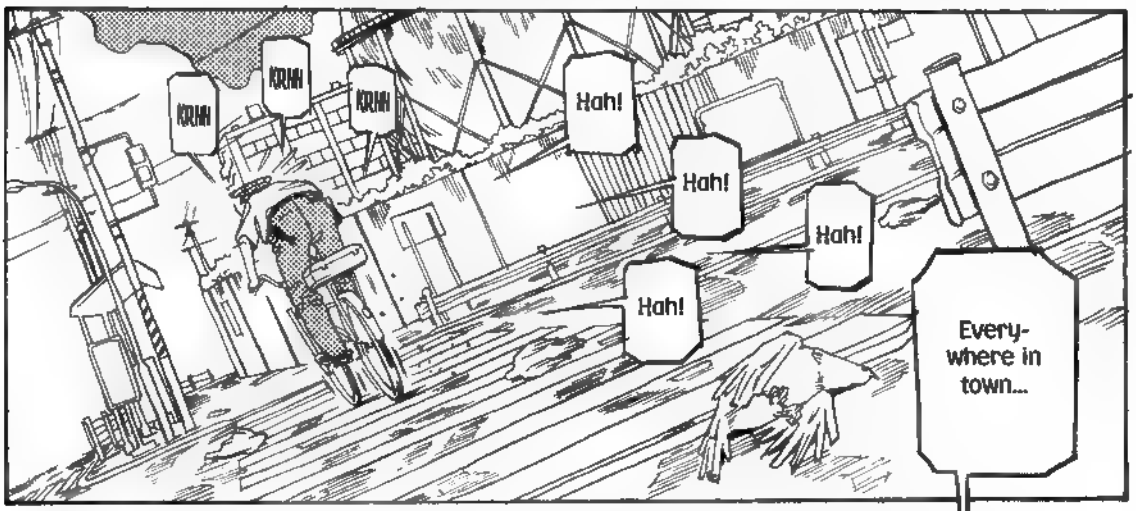

Huuuh?!
VRRRR

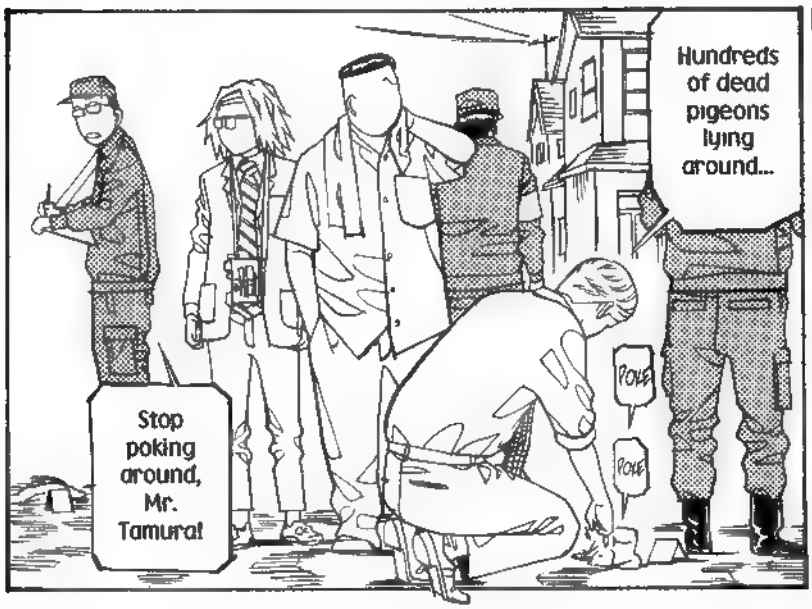
Huh?
Huh?
D-d-did I make a wrong turn?
What the hell? We just passed this place.


This is why women shouldn't drive!
How the fuck do you get lost in a place like this, you moron!
Huh?
Huh?
Huh?
VRRRR

Took us forever to get here.
Circling around the same place over and over again...
...
You're late, Mr. Yokoi, Ms. Onoda.
This moron kept getting lost.

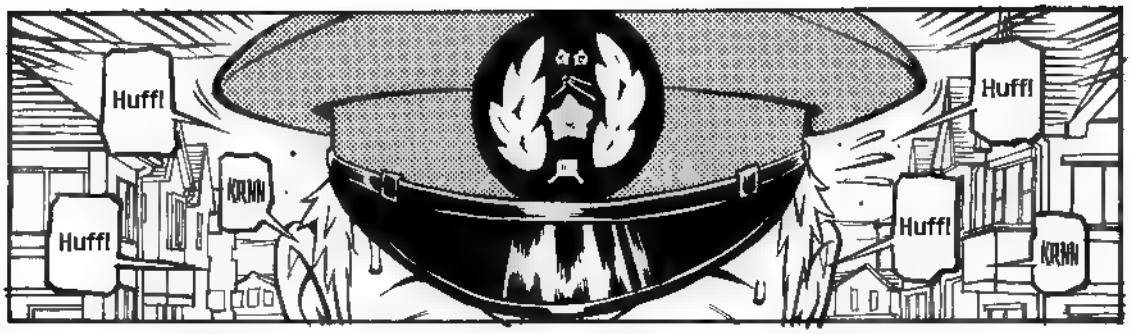
Hah!
Hah!
KRAH
KRAH
Hah!
KRAH

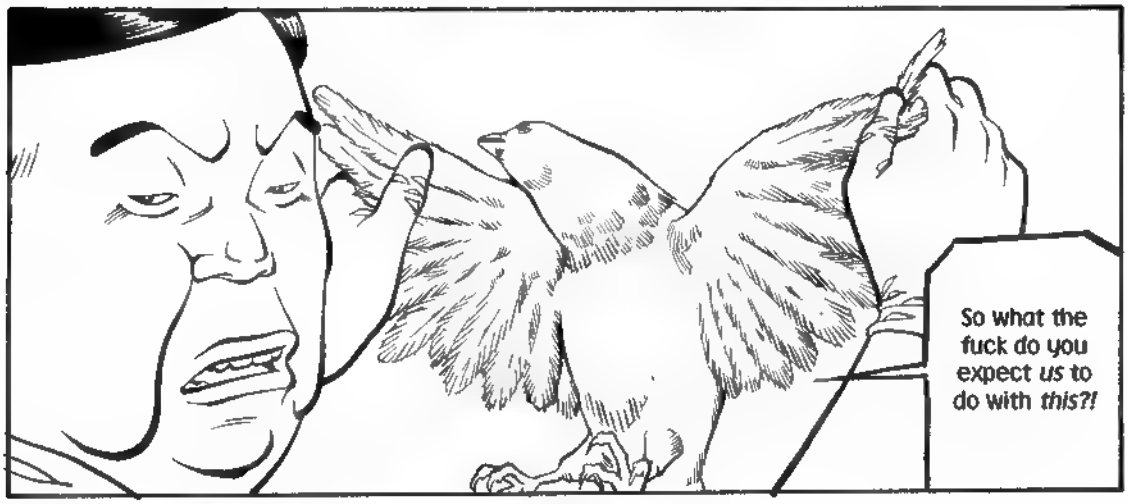

KRAH
KRAH
KRAH
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Every-
where in
town...


Hundreds
of dead
pigeons
lying
around...
Stop
poking
around,
Mr.
Tamura!
POKE
POKE

POKE
POKE

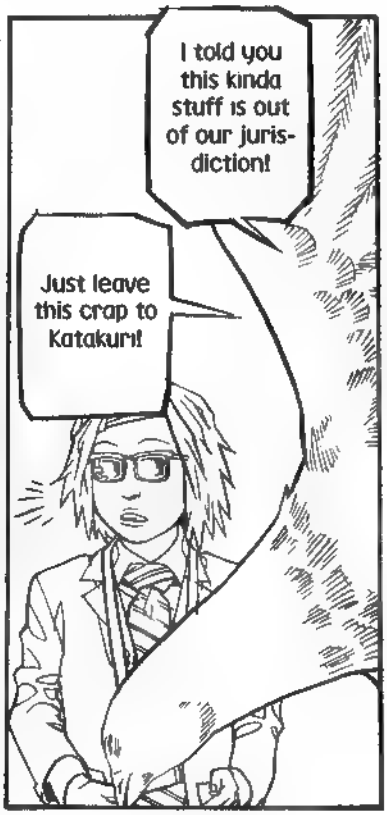
You're embarrassing me, Seki.
Yeah yeah, go away.
I'm telling you, this town is being attacked by aliens!
It was a UFO! With electromagnetic radiation! It's killing the pigeons!
You think this has anything to do with the crop circles from before?
That would make this an organized affair with a good number of people...
They probably poisoned the birds...
...and scattered the bodies around town at night.
I-I-I believe the issue is whether a further connection can be made with the "salt mountain..."
Wh-whether we should establish a connection with the disappearance of the Suzushiros and Officer Ichinose or not...
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
KRAH
KRAH


Huff!
KRNN
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
KRNN

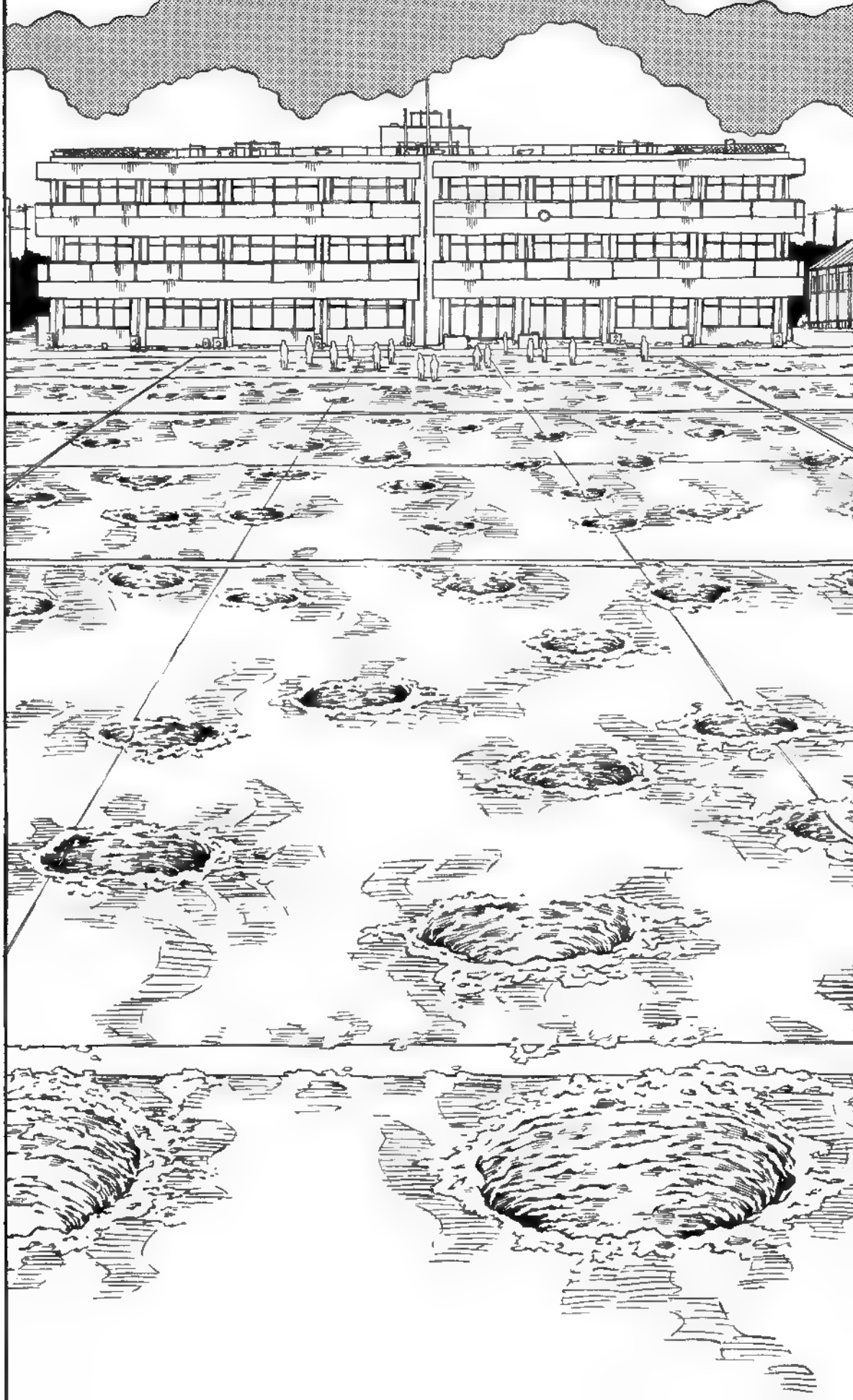

So what the fuck do you expect *us* to do with *this*?!

The middle school?
SHRUG

I think he got a call from the middle school.
Ohh...
S-s-speaking of which, where is Officer Katakuri...?

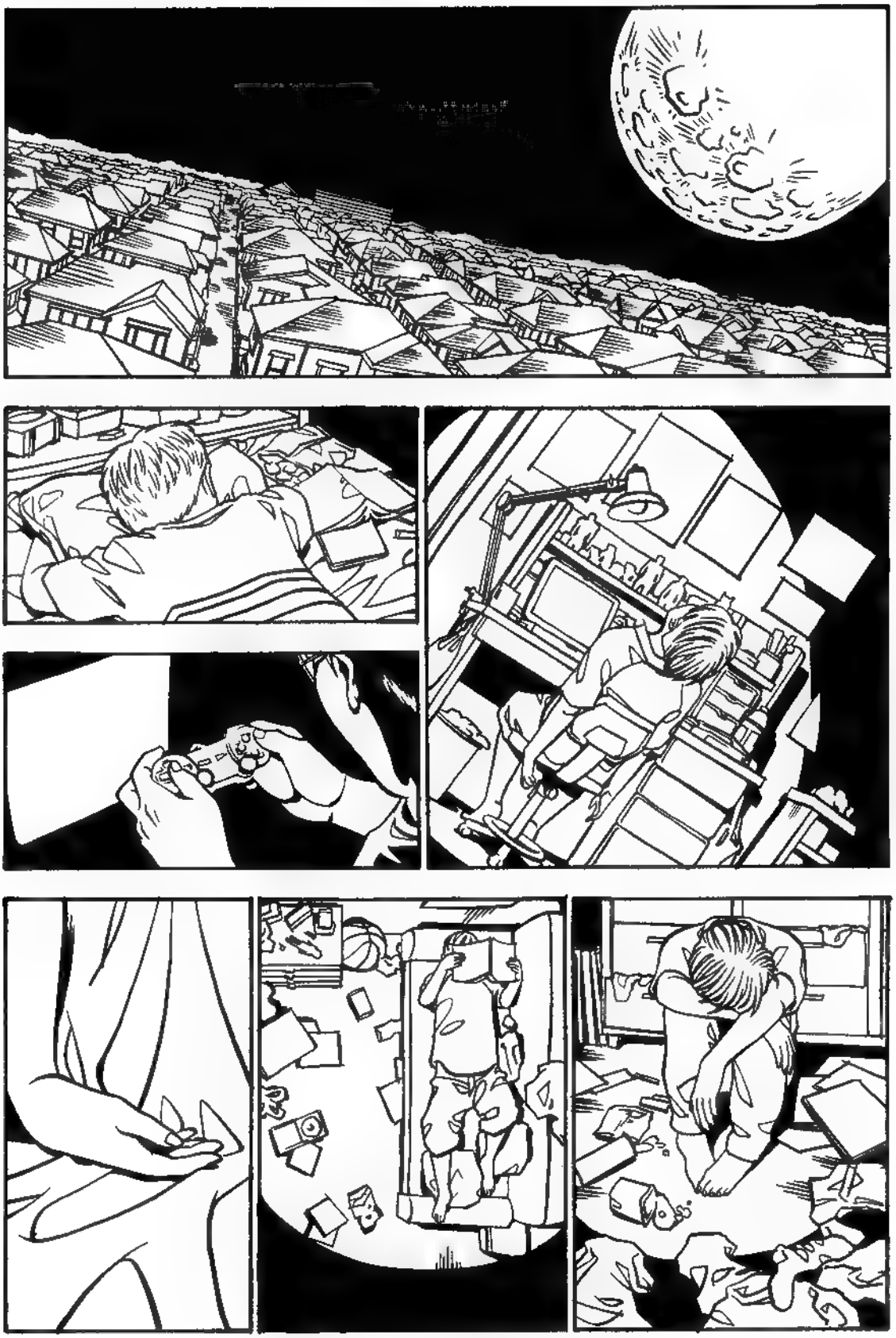

I told you this kinda stuff is out of our jurisdiction!
Just leave this crap to Katakuri!

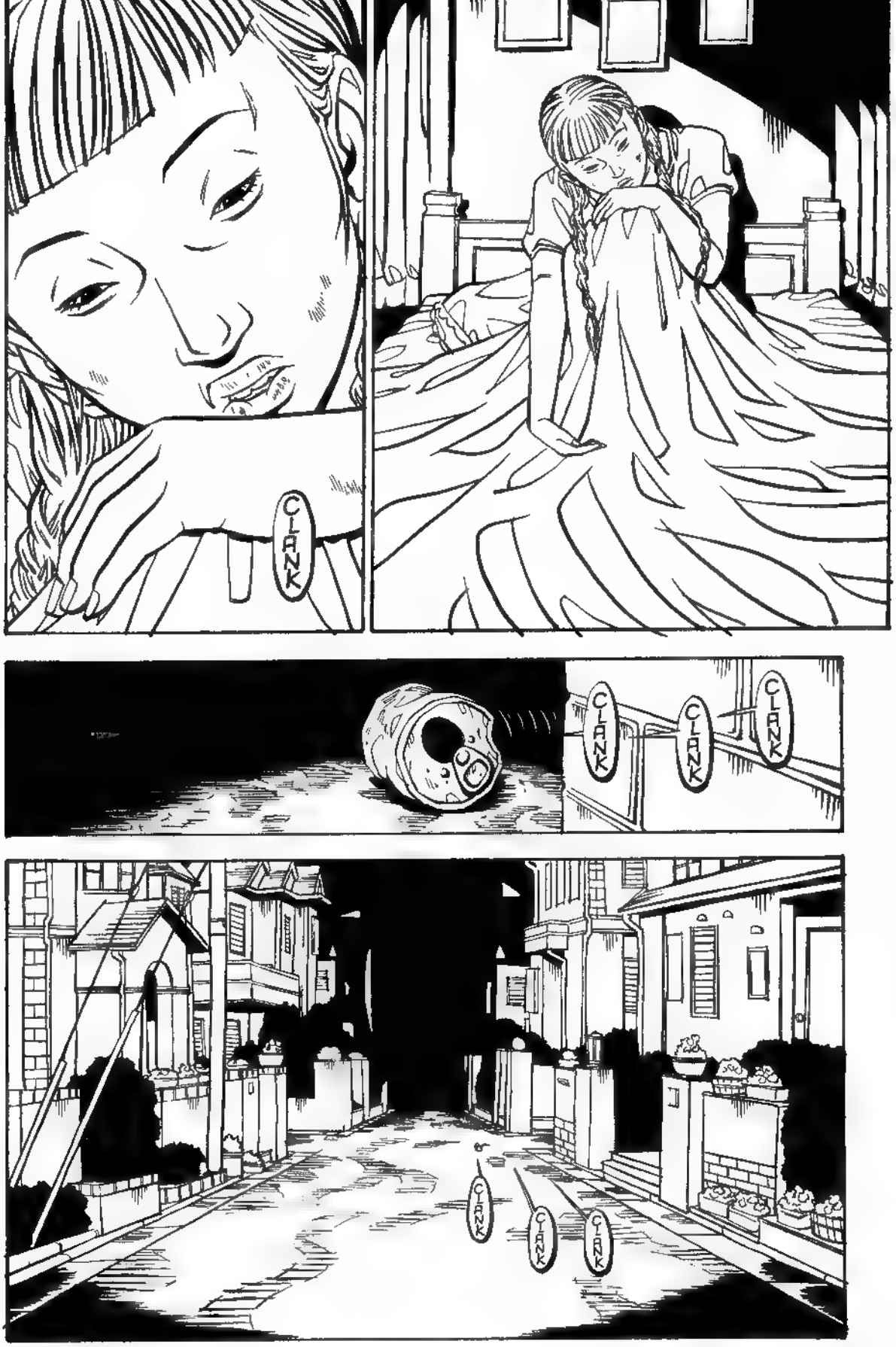
H-h-h-h-hello everyone!
Owwwwww!
Uhh... I have no idea what's going on again, but...
...I-I-I'd like you to take a look at something!



What kind of asshole did something like this?!
Maaan! What the hell is going on?!
First it was "salt," and now it's holes?!
Not that there are any students anyway!
When are we gonna actually be able to have class?!
How come all this stuff is happening all of a sudden...?
I really don't get what the heck is going on...
Calm down, Mr. Katakuri.
What's the meaning of this...?
S-so what do you make of this...?

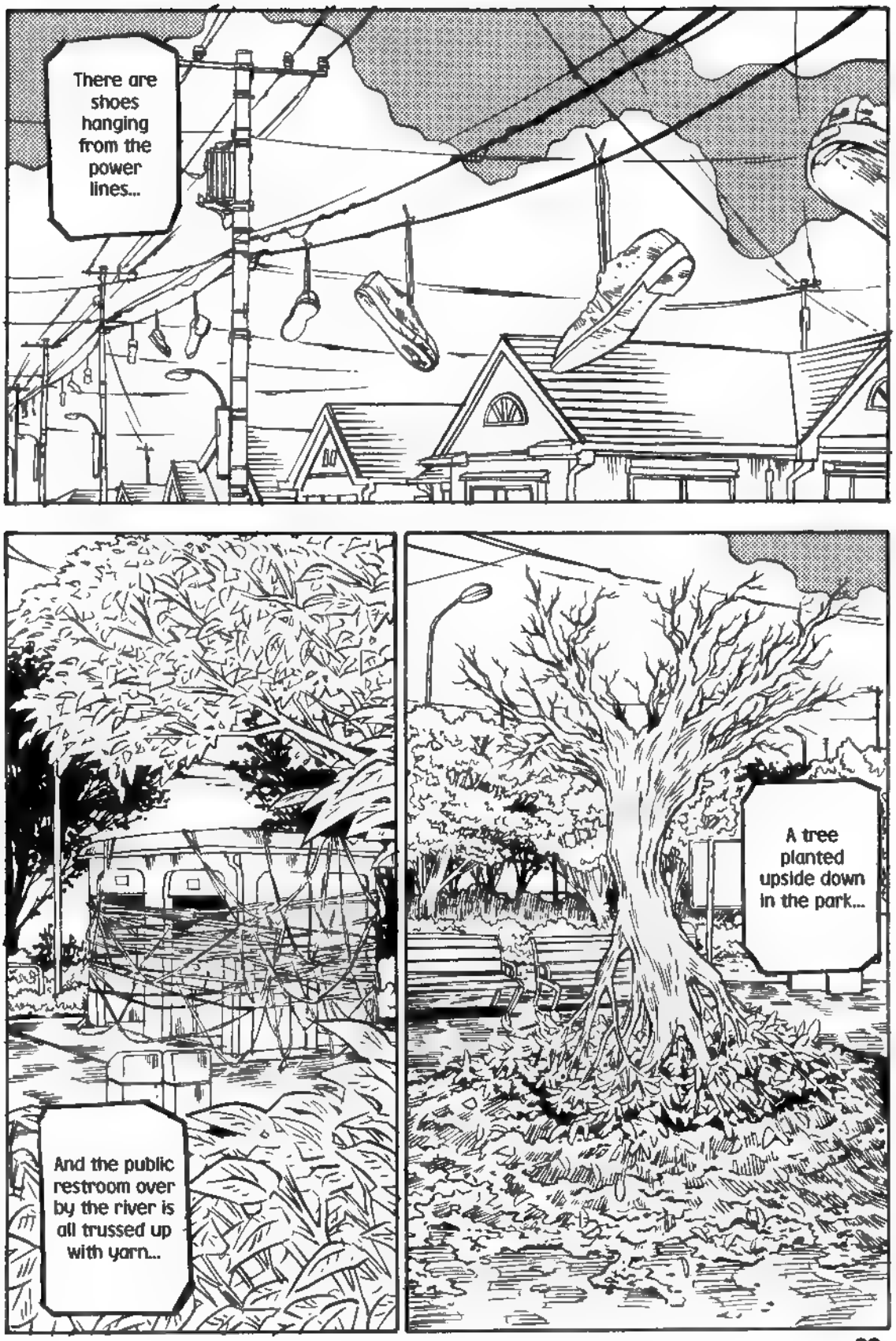
...
What do you think this means...?
What is this...?
What's going on here...?
What's going on...?
What in the world is this...?
Mystery...




CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

KRMM
KRMM
KRMM
KRMM
KRMM
KRMM
CLUNK

Geez, I really have no idea what's going on here.
Have you seen the other stuff?
Looks like this was brought over from the empty lots outside town.
We've found several traces of dug-up earth.


There are shoes hanging from the power lines...
A tree planted upside down in the park...
And the public restroom over by the river is all trussed up with yarn...

The aliens are really starting to take action!
Th-this is bad, Tomiyama !
Oh really?
What's the meaning of all this...?
What's going on...?
What's gonna happen to this town...?
What's gonna happen ...?
Wh-wh-why would anyone do something like this...?
Wh-wh-what do you think is happening here?
...
S-S-S-S-Sergeant Yokoi...

Ahhhhh!
Fuck.
How long is this heat wave gonna last...?

SOIL
Block 2-4 [End]

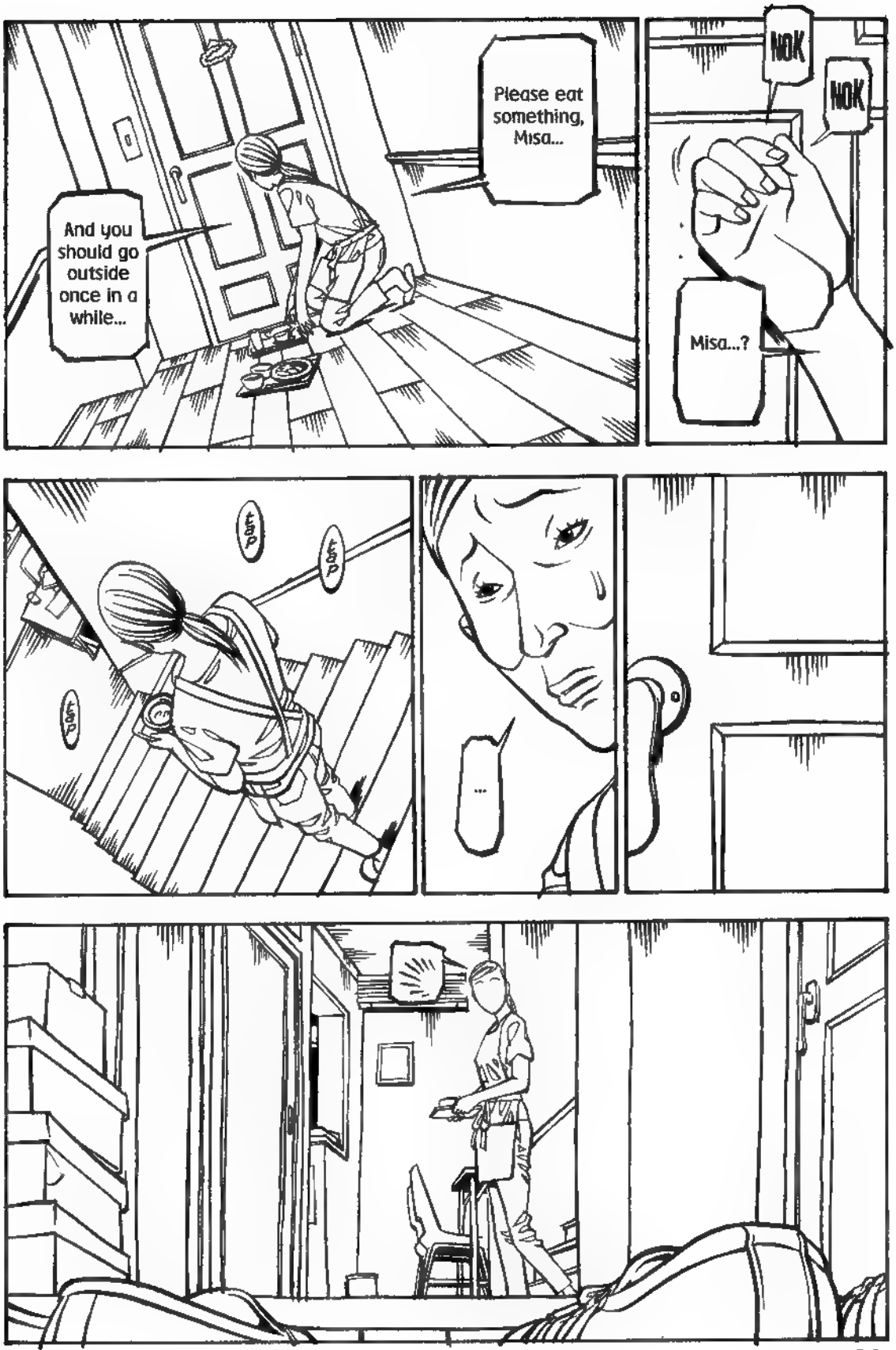
SOIL

Block 2-5 [Distortion]

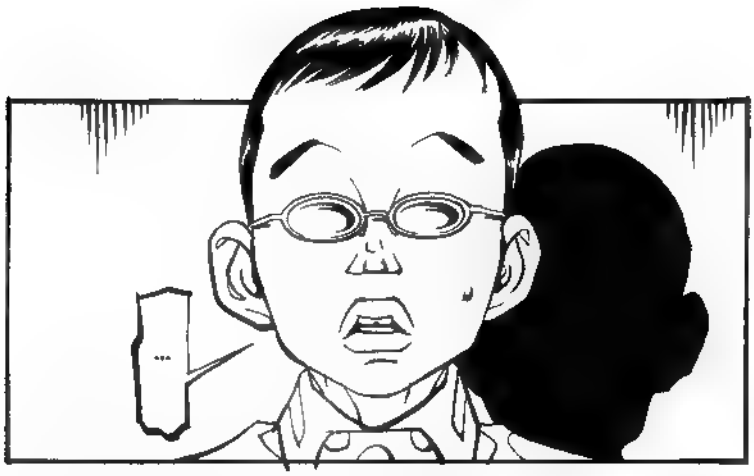
tap
tap
BLOCK 2-5

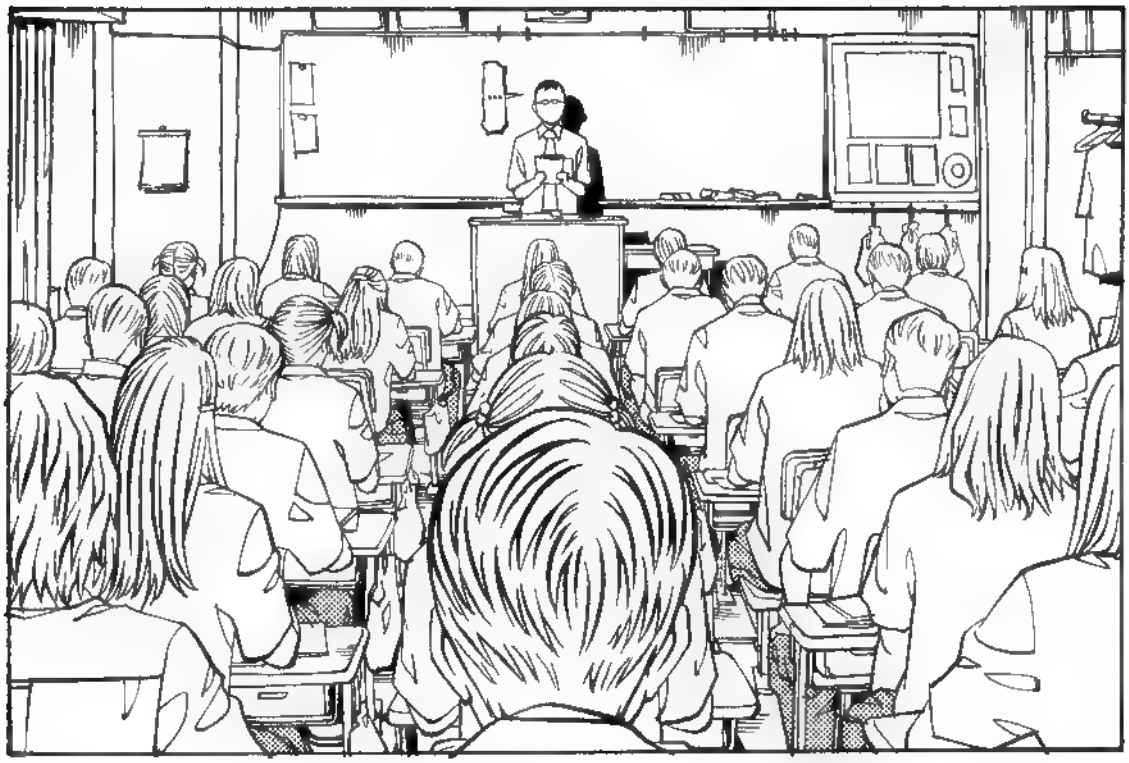
tap
tap
tap
tap

...


Please eat something, Misa...
And you should go outside once in a while...
NOK
NOK
Misa...?
tap
tap
tap
...

[Distortion]





...
That was a message from the aliens!
I'm telling you!
Each one has a meaning! It's a warning to the town...!
"The power lies with us, shoo shoo?"
Power lines with shoes, so...
...
Are you kidding?! What kind of a warning is that?
Meaning? Then what about that thing? The shoes on the power lines?
Uh, well, that was...

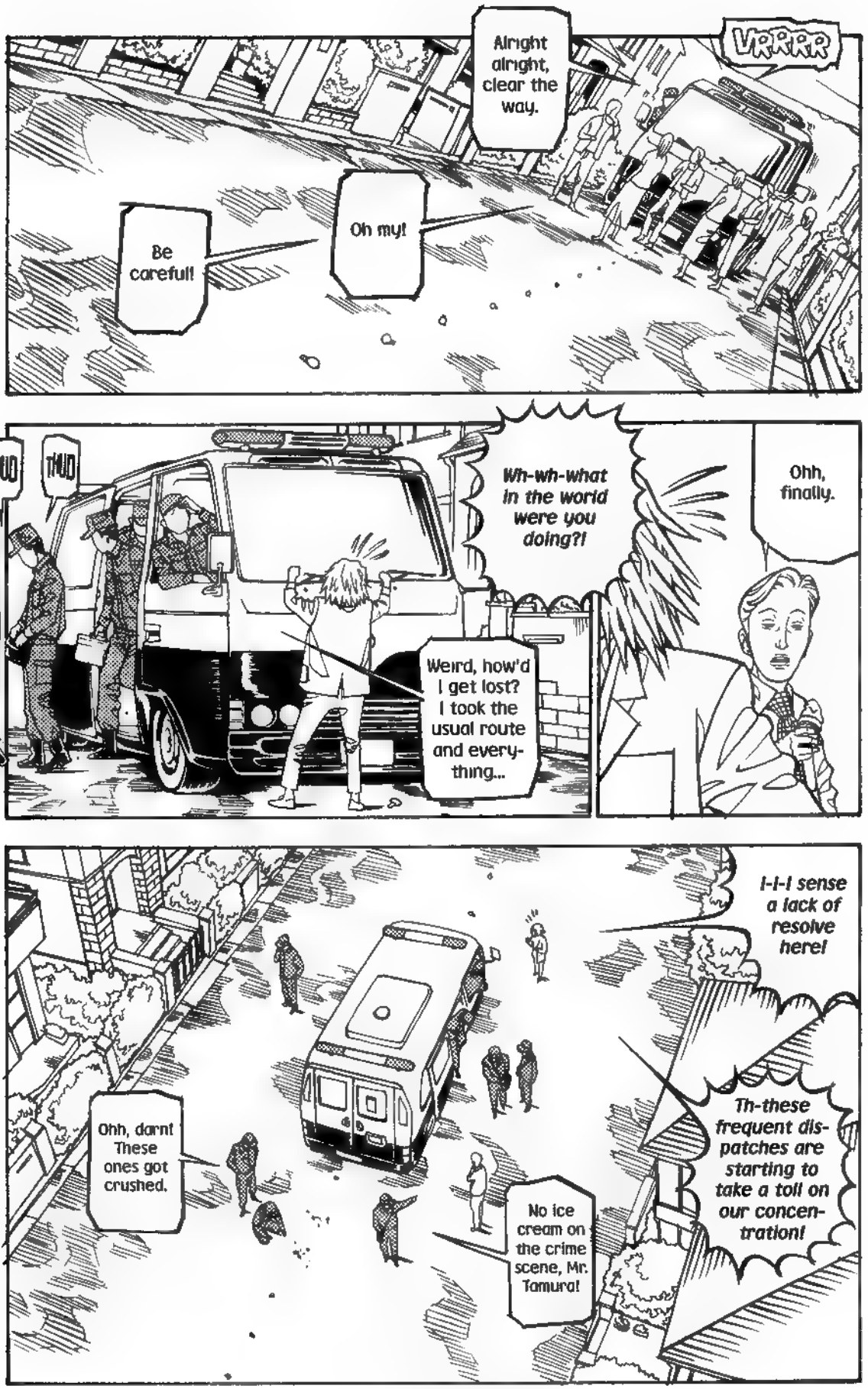
Are you freaking stupid?!
Of course there are, this is a school!
...
What's different ?
You guys haven't noticed anything different...?
Well, you know, there are lots of students in the class-rooms...
How should we interpret this...?
What's your take on this, as the school counselor ...?
...
But new "anomalies" keep occur-ring in the town...
How did this happen? Was it really the "salt mountain" being removed from the yard...?
Yes, you're right...
Plus I don't sense any "fear" in them anymore.
The students seem to be acting normally...
But that's what bothers me.

Huh?
What if this is another "anomaly...?"
Either way, we should be grateful that the children have returned to school.
Yes, absolutely.
Well, yes.
No... Just with all of these strange things happening...
Oh, certainly.
First, we need to make sure that we don't seem flustered.
Yes, you're right...

The bus stop on our street is covered in aluminum foil.
What a nasty thing to do!
What's going on every single morning?
How long is this going to continue ...?
Did you see that?
Light bulbs. All across the street. Exactly the same distance apart from one another...

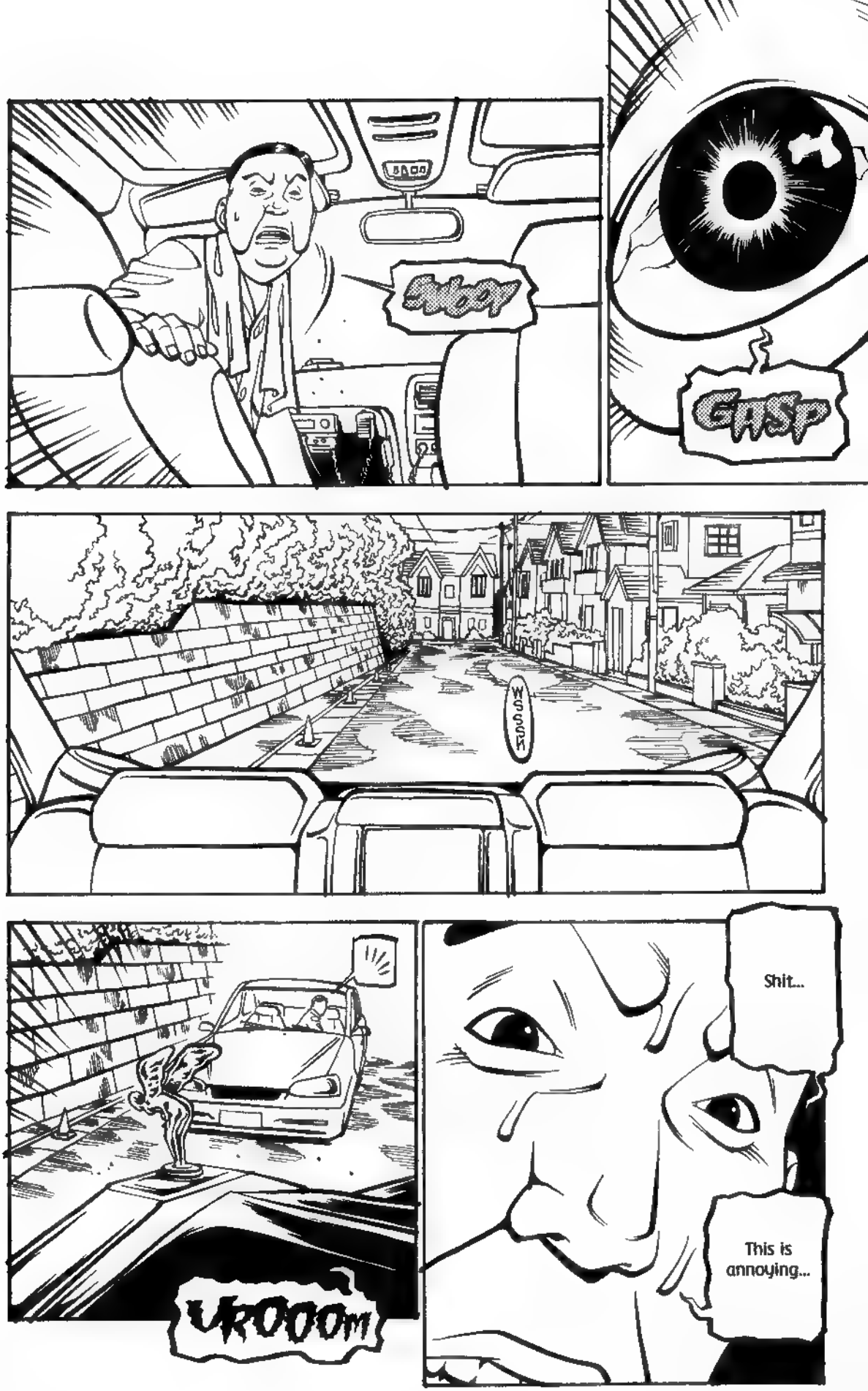
Who's doing this?
And for what reason?
Oh yes...
Absolutely.
This is all because they won't hurry up and solve the case.
What are the police doing?
Do you think this has something to do with the Suzushiros...?
That reminds me, my son went to school this morning.
Mine too, all of a sudden.
Oh, mine too!
Really.
All these strange things...
What in the world are they thinking?

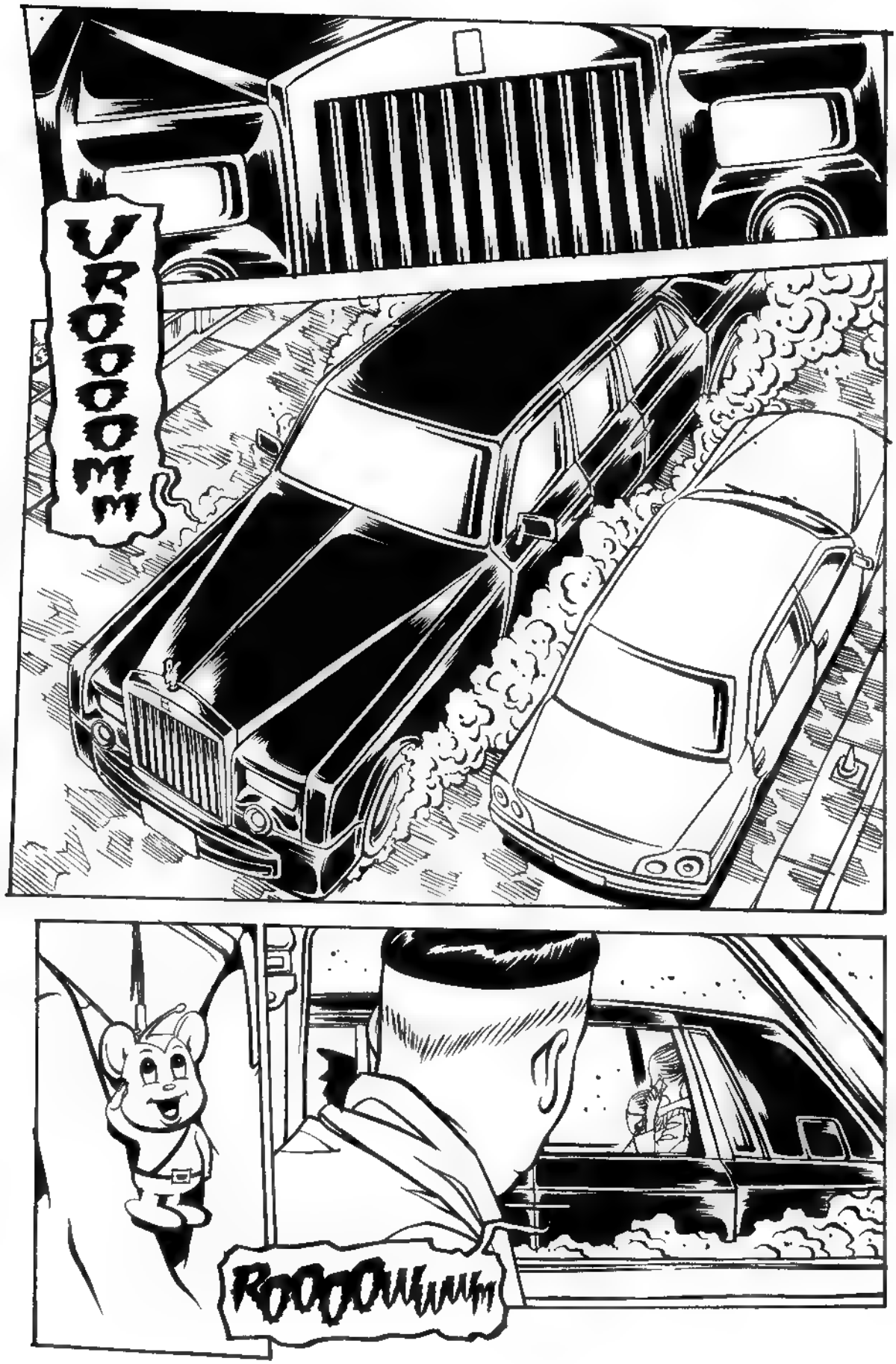
ブウウウン
All these strange things...
Ms. Onoda...
Aaaaaghhh!
BLEEP
This is inexcusable! Unacceptable!
Kamikawa Station has Bibitto-kun.
"Pipo-kun" is the MPD's mascot, isn't it?
Th-th-that one's not as cool-looking...
ブウウウン
What?!
Why do you have a "Pipo-kun" key chain?
Th-th-th-that's not an issue at the moment...


Alright alright, clear the way.
VRRRRR
Be careful!
Oh my!
THUD
THUD
Wh-wh-what in the world were you doing?!
Ohh, finally.
Weird, how'd I get lost? I took the usual route and everything...
I-I-I sense a lack of resolve here!
Th-these frequent dispatches are starting to take a toll on our concentration!
Ohh, darnt These ones got crushed.
No ice cream on the crime scene, Mr. Tamura!

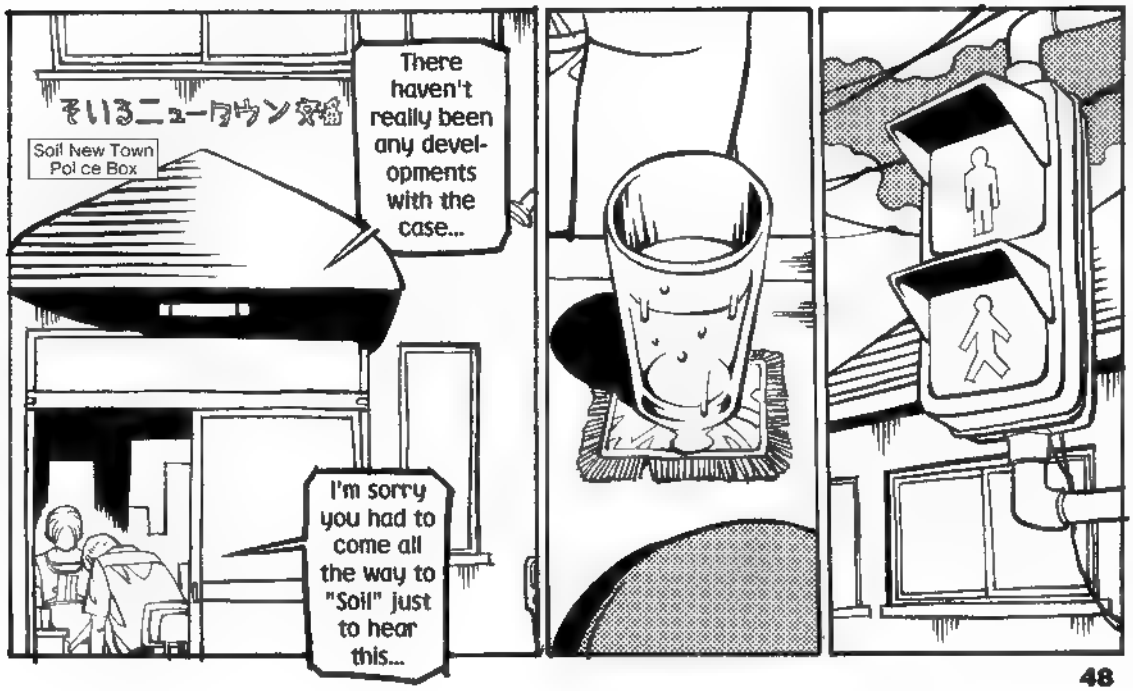
Ohh, he said it's too hot so he's napping in the car.
B-b-by the way, where is Sergeant Yokoi...?
Wh-wh-what did you say?!
He's totally out of it.
WUUUUUM
WUUUUUM

WSSSHHH
WSSSHHH
WSSSHH
SWIK

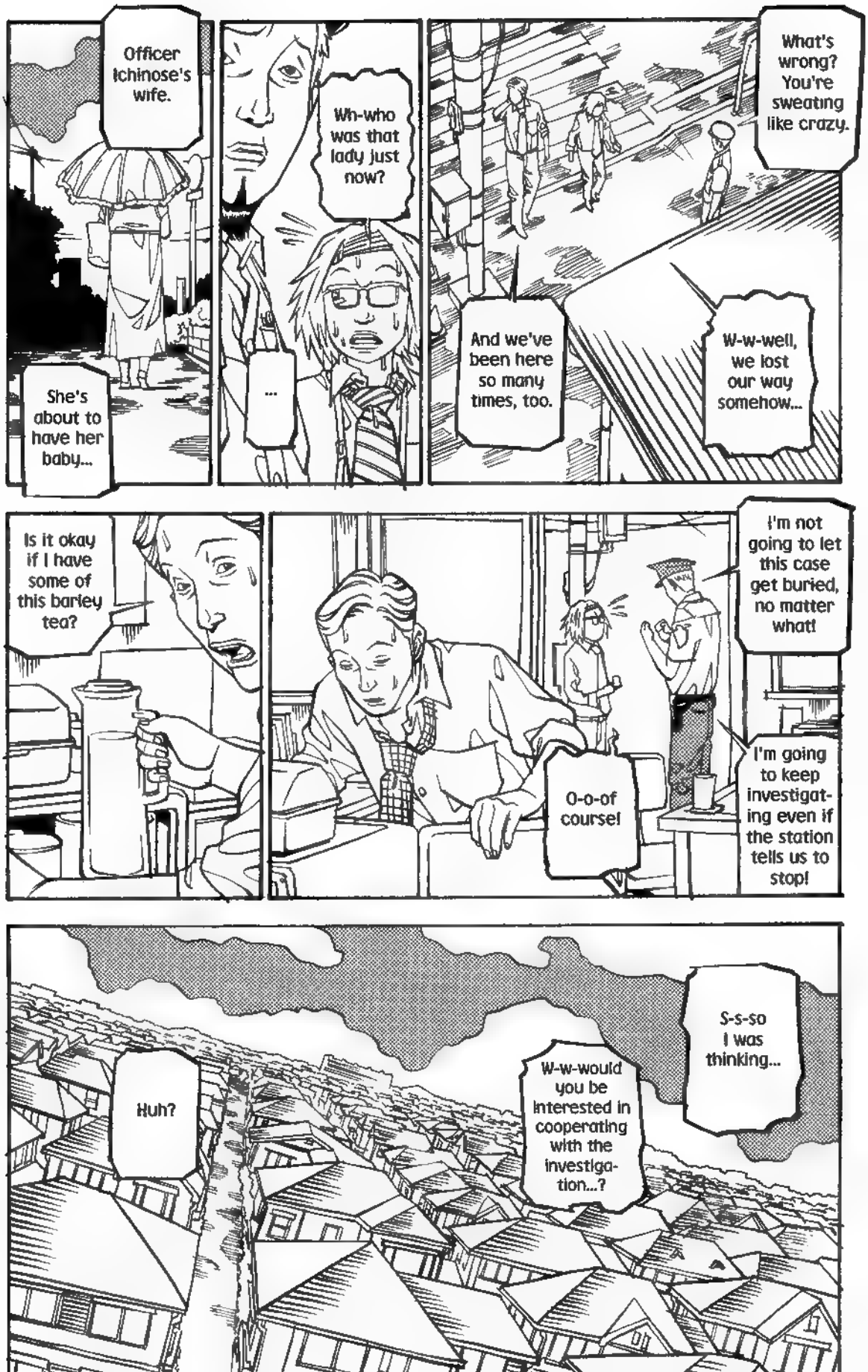

GASP
WSSSH
Shit...
This is annoying...
VROOOM

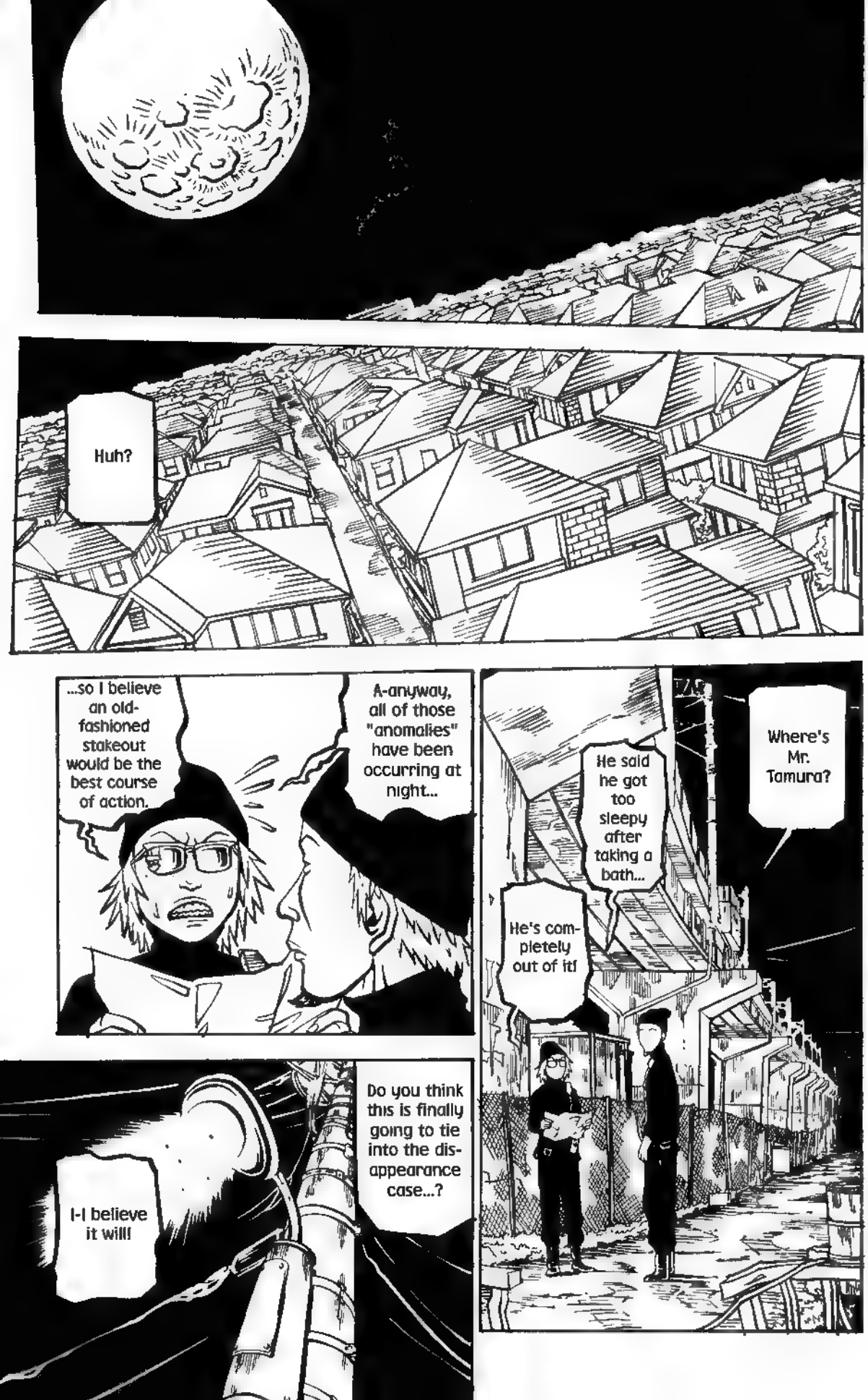

VROOOOOM
ROOOOUUUUM

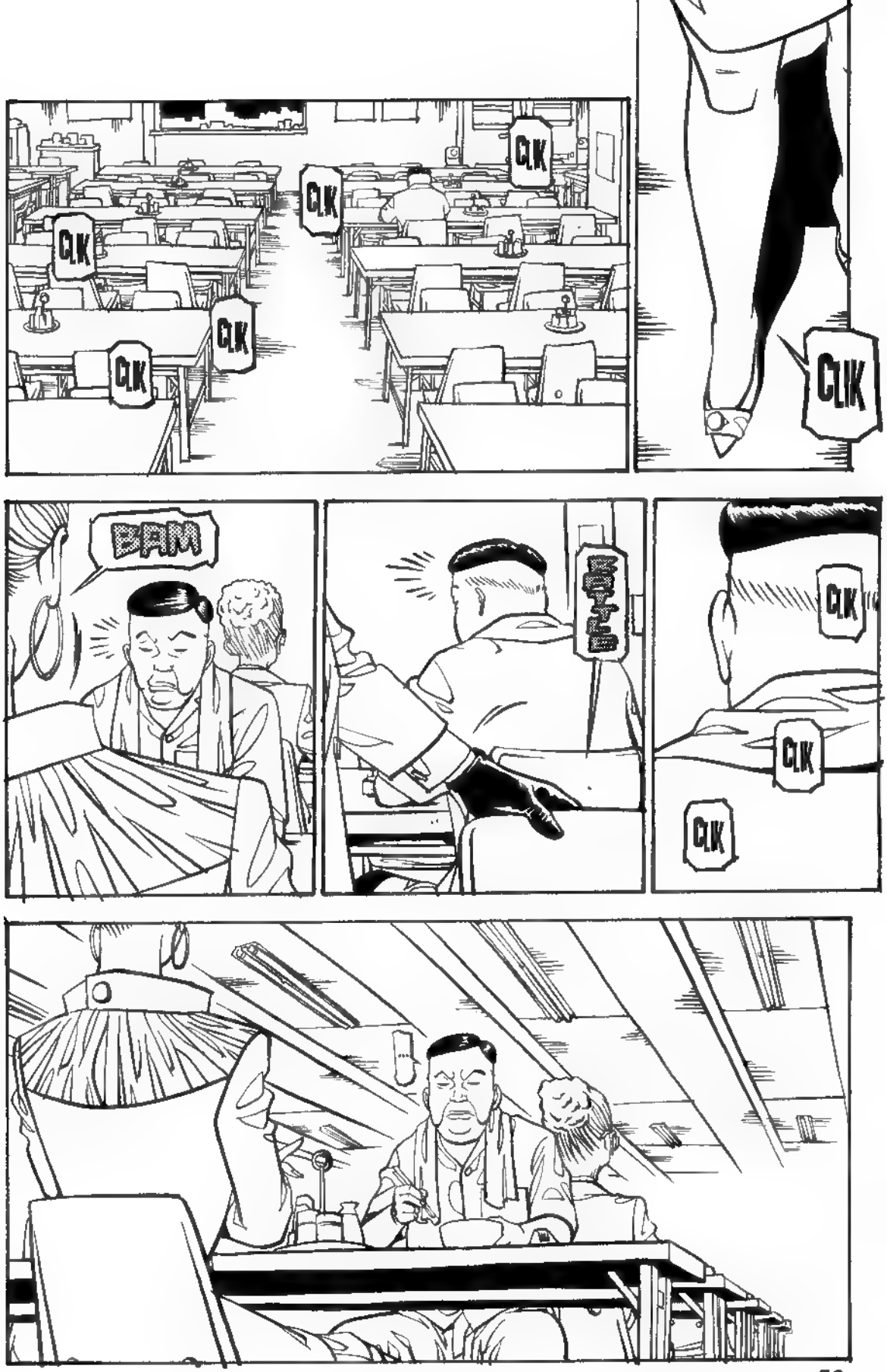
VROOOOOOM
This is really fucking annoying...
Man...

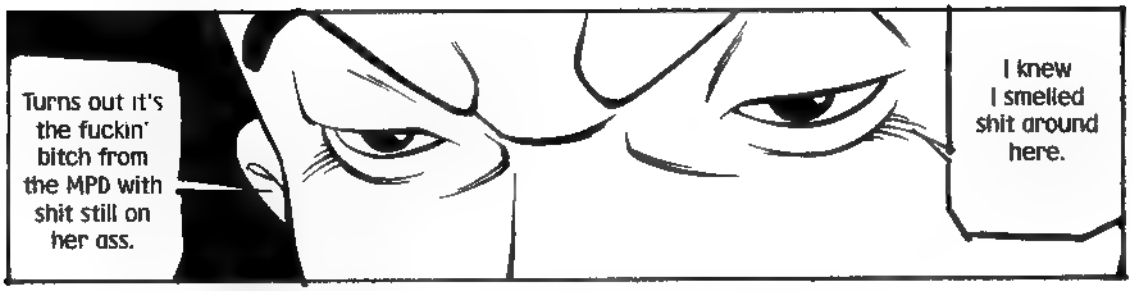

そいるニュータウン交番
Soil New Town Police Box
There haven't really been any developments with the case...
I'm sorry you had to come all the way to "Soil" just to hear this...

We'll find him... Your husband...
As soon as possible...
The police are doing their best...
Just a little longer...
It just doesn't make any sense...
Wh-wh-why would you want to follow a trail of ants, Detective Tamura?!
Oh c'mon, don't you want to figure out where they made their nest?
...


Officer Ichinose's wife.
She's about to have her baby...
Wh-who was that lady just now?
...
What's wrong? You're sweating like crazy.
And we've been here so many times, too.
W-w-well, we lost our way somehow...
Is it okay if I have some of this barley tea?
I'm not going to let this case get buried, no matter what!
O-o-of course!
I'm going to keep investigating even if the station tells us to stop!
Huh?
W-w-would you be interested in cooperating with the investigation...?
S-s-so I was thinking...

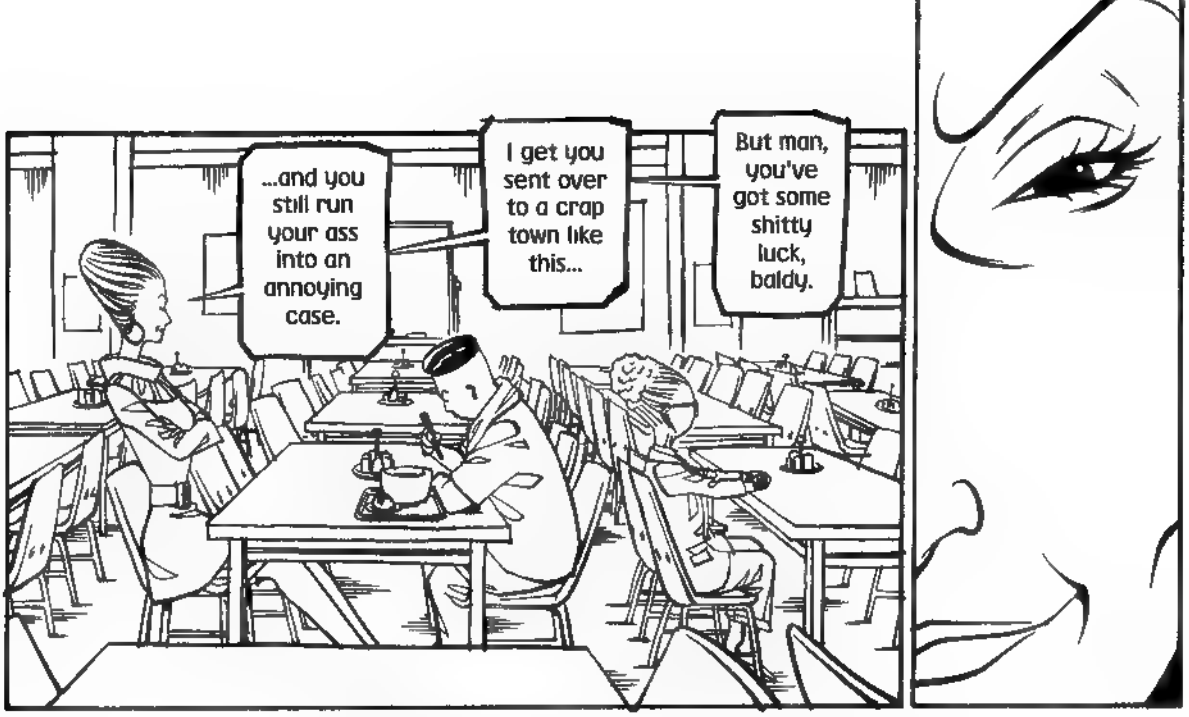

Huh?
...so I believe an old-fashioned stakeout would be the best course of action.
A-anyway, all of those "anomalies" have been occurring at night...
Where's Mr. Tamura?
He said he got too sleepy after taking a bath...
He's completely out of it!
Do you think this is finally going to tie into the disappearance case...?
I-I believe it will!

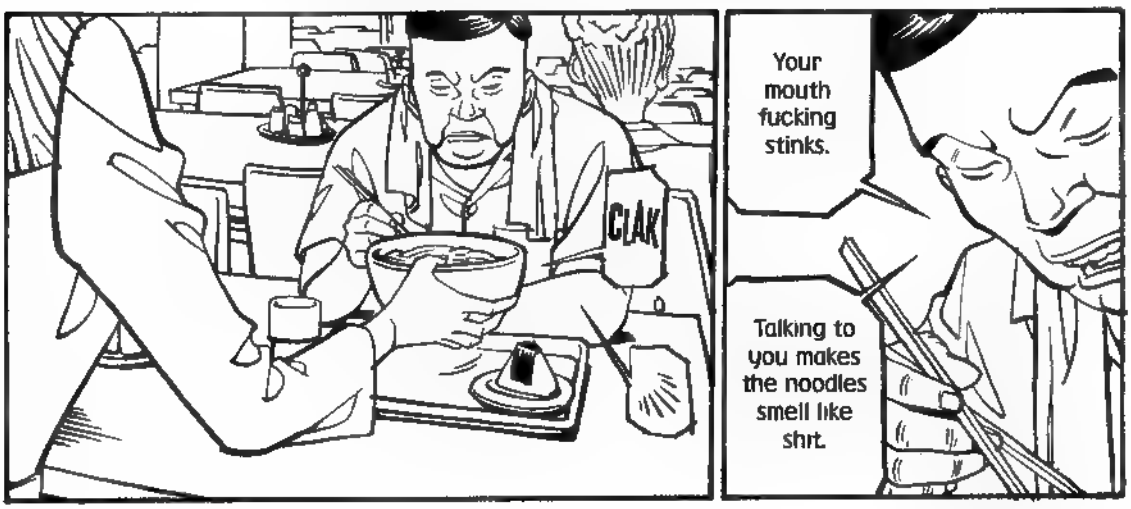

CLK
CLK
CLK
CLK
CLK
CLIK
BAM
CLK
CLK
CLK

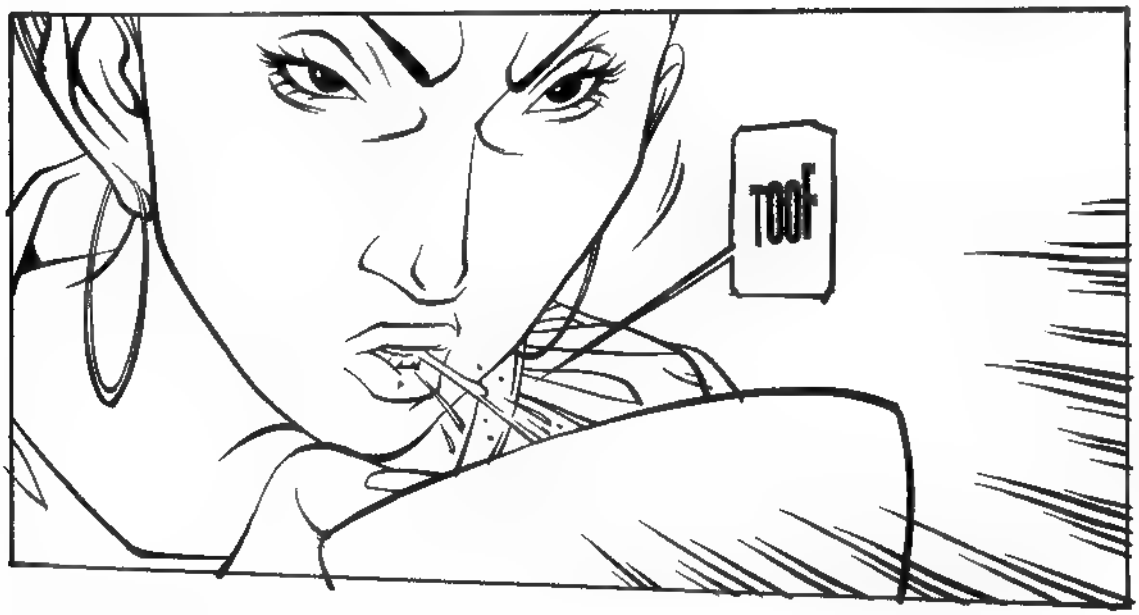

Turns out it's the fuckin' bitch from the MPD with shit still on her ass.
I knew I smelled shit around here.

I know how to wipe my own ass.
You're the piece of shit.

Hmph... "Soil," huh...?
Don't worry.
I didn't come here to peel off that dirty-ass wig off your head.


...and you still run your ass into an annoying case.
I get you sent over to a crap town like this...
But man, you've got some shitty luck, baldy.


CLAK
Your mouth fucking stinks.
Talking to you makes the noodles smell like shit.


TOOF

Why the hell would I stick my head in?
The only thing I'm sticking anywhere is my dick.
THUK
You got it, Yokoi?
It's not gonna end with a demotion this time.
You better not stick your head in if you think things are getting annoying.
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
Fucking asshole.

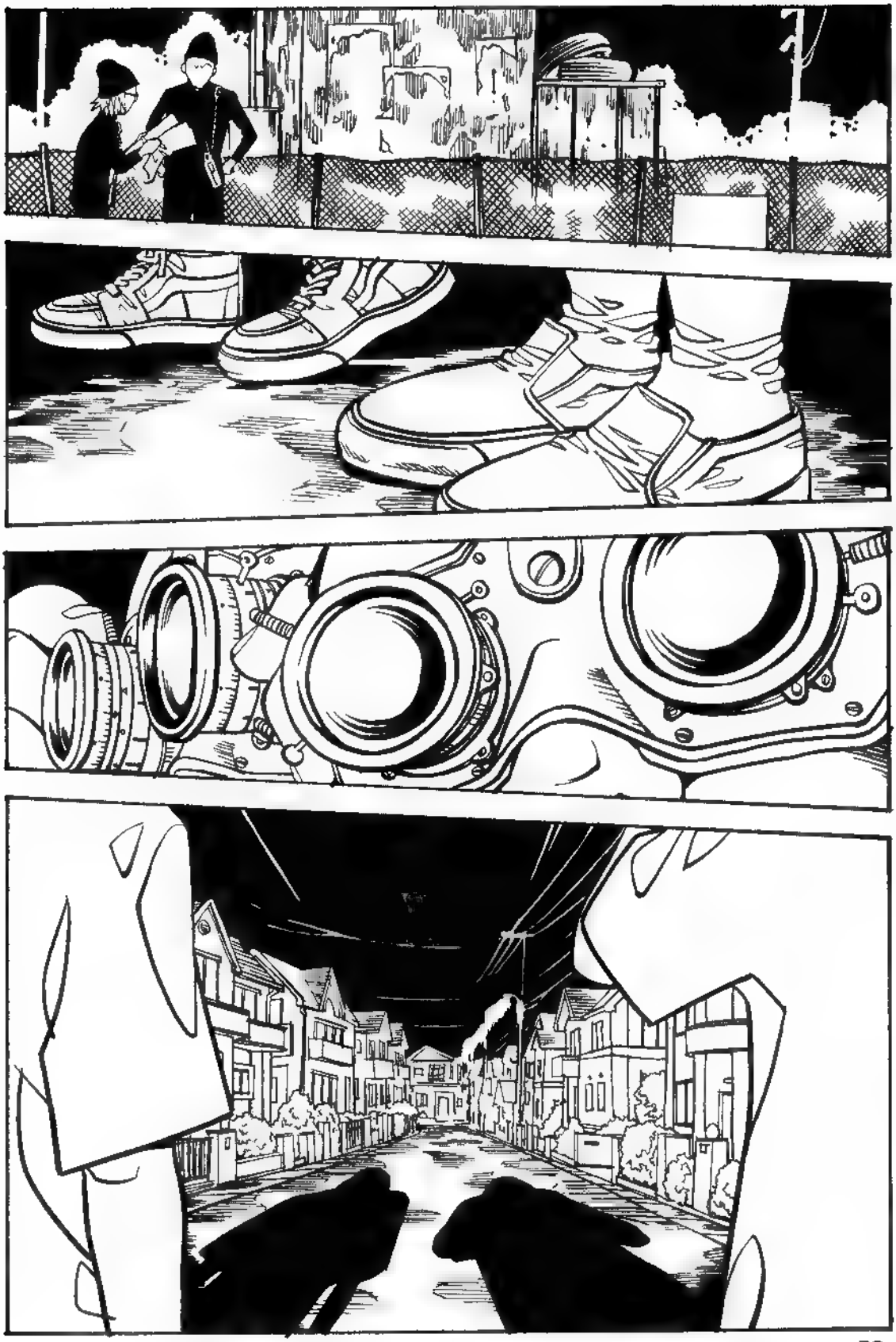
RATTLE
CLK
Fucking asshole.
CLK
CLK
CLK
CLK
Good night, sir.

ZHA
ZHA
ZHA

ZHA
ZHA

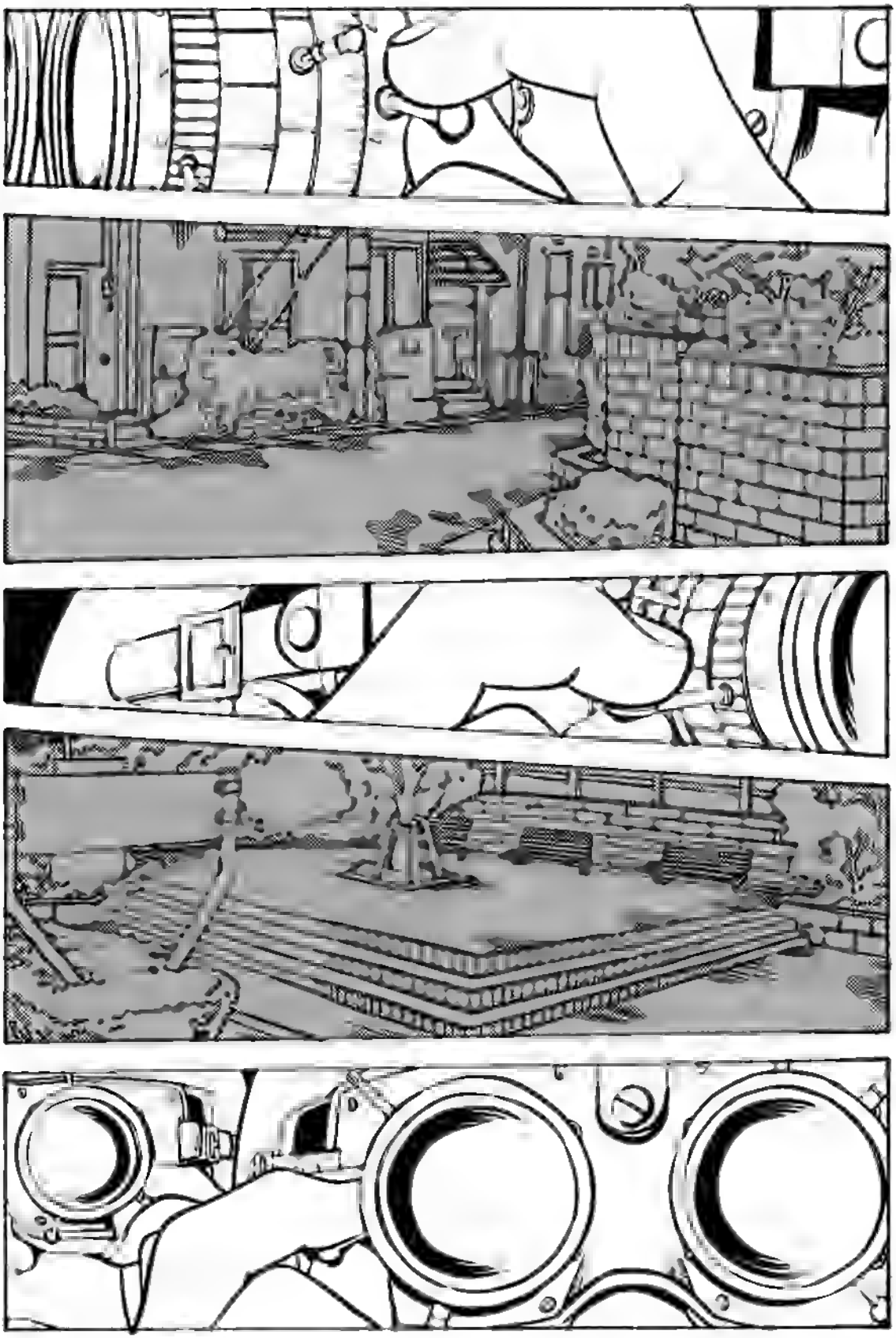
...

ZHA

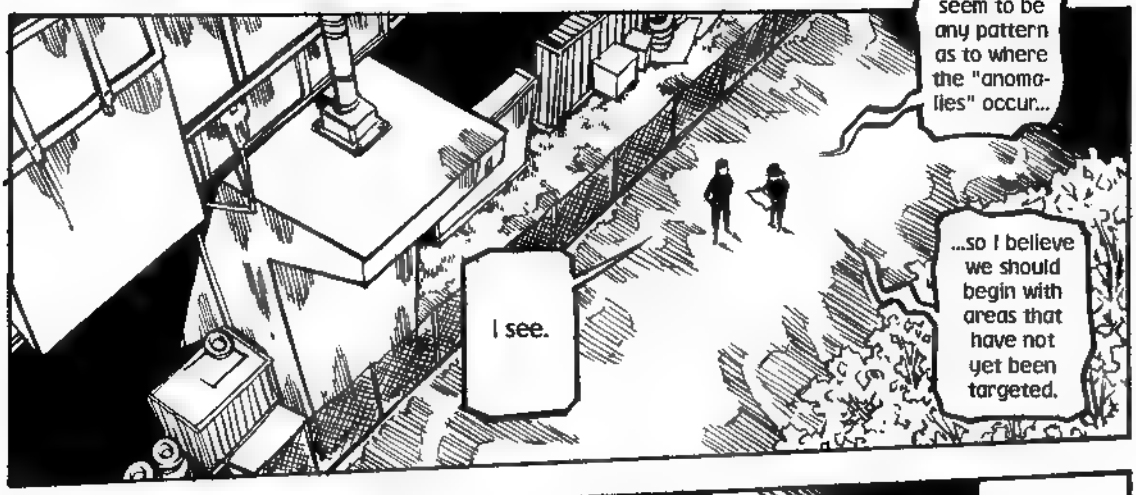


SOIL
Block 2-5 [End]

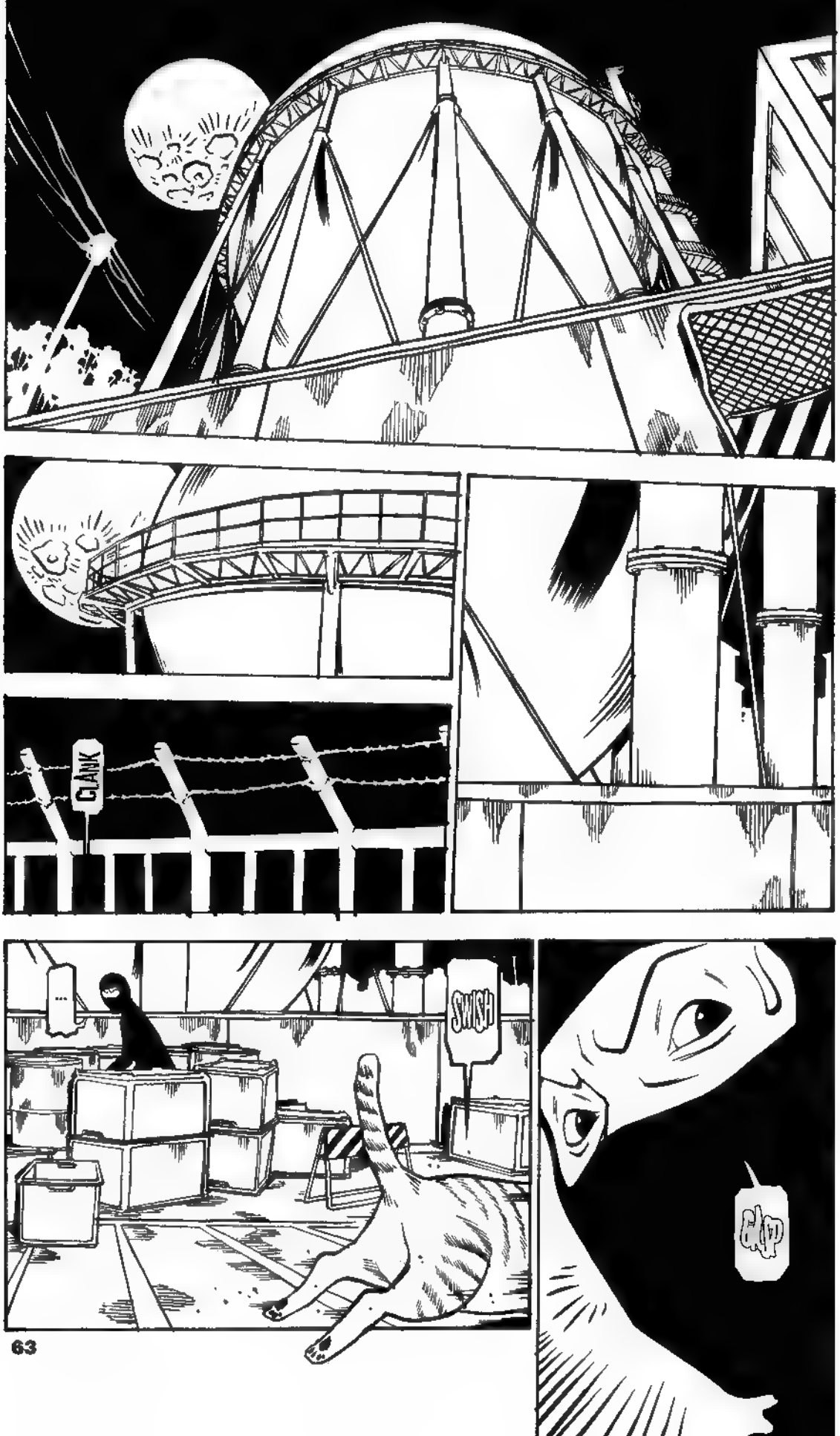
SOIL
Block 2-6 [Butterfly Wings]

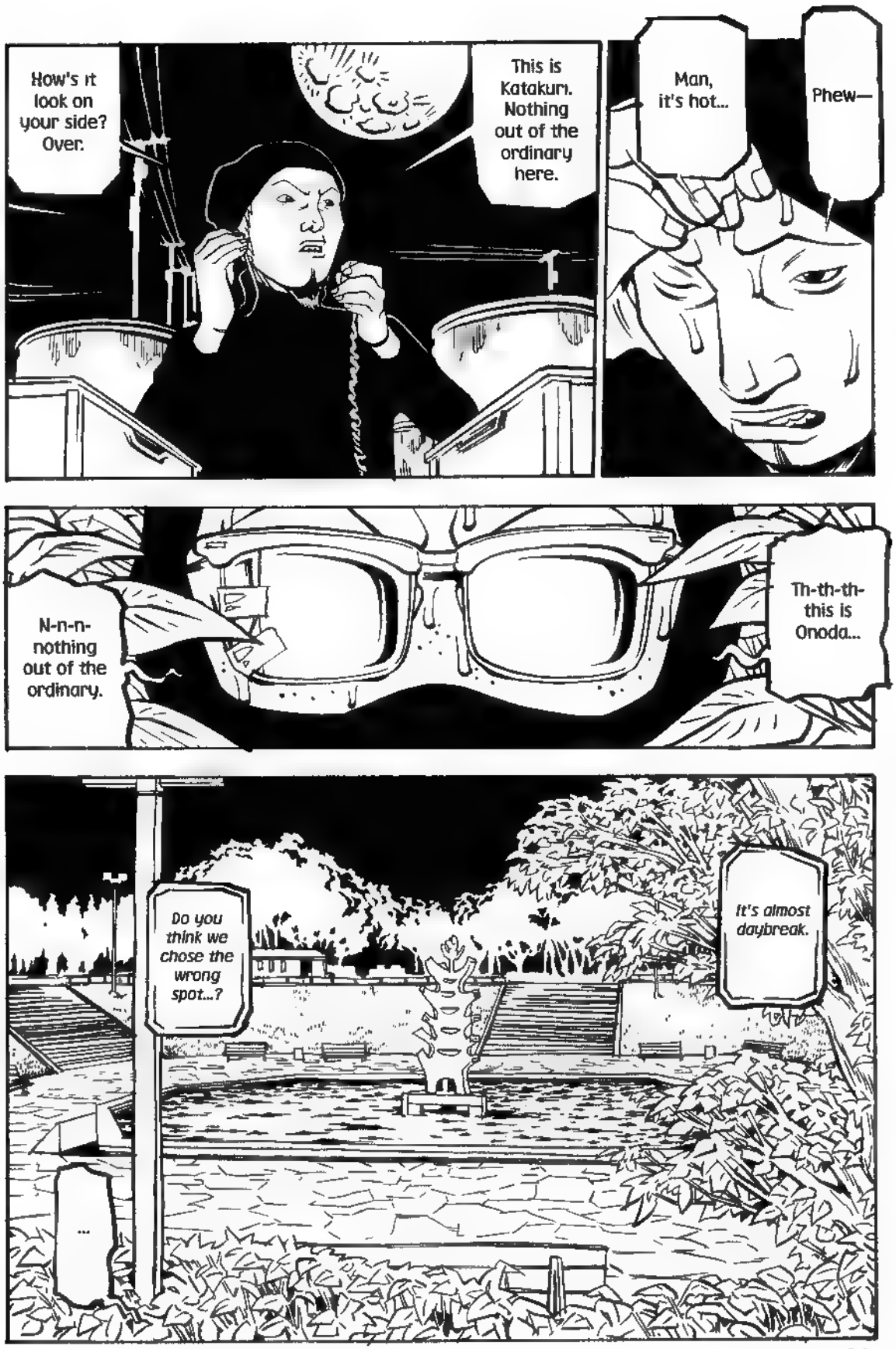


BLOCK 2-6

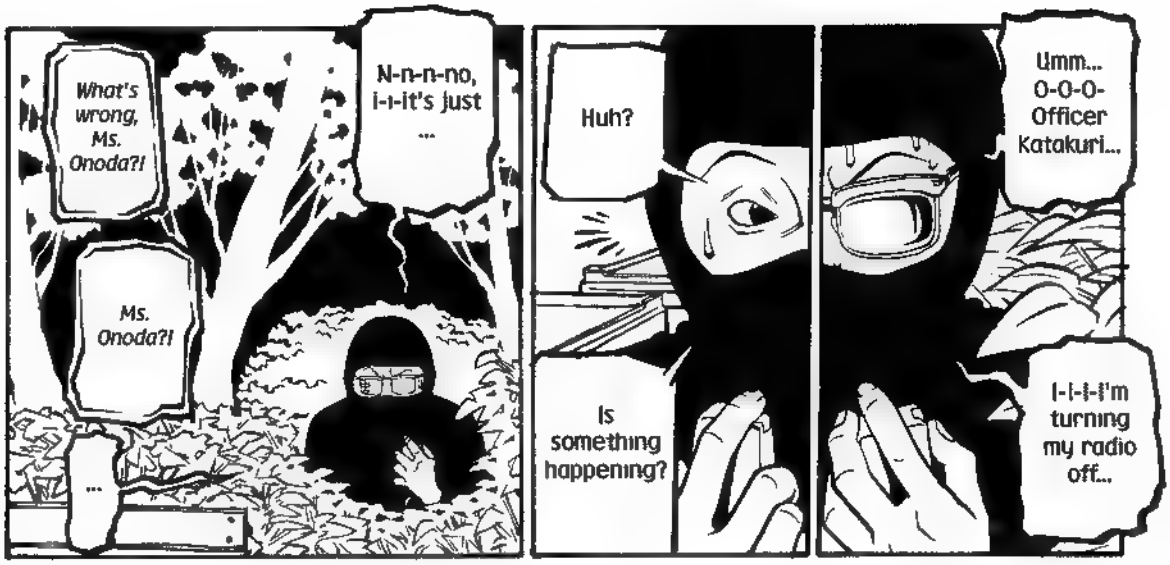

Th-there doesn't seem to be any pattern as to where the "anomalies" occur...
...so I believe we should begin with areas that have not yet been targeted.
I see.

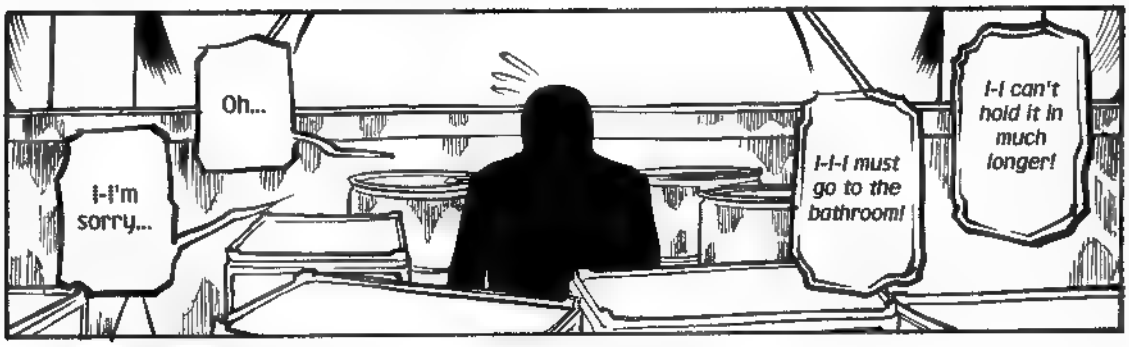
[Butterfly Wings]


CLANK
SWISH
GULP


How's it look on your side? Over.
This is Katakuri. Nothing out of the ordinary here.
Man, it's hot...
Phew—
N-n-n-nothing out of the ordinary.
Th-th-th-this is Onoda...
Do you think we chose the wrong spot...?
It's almost daybreak.
...

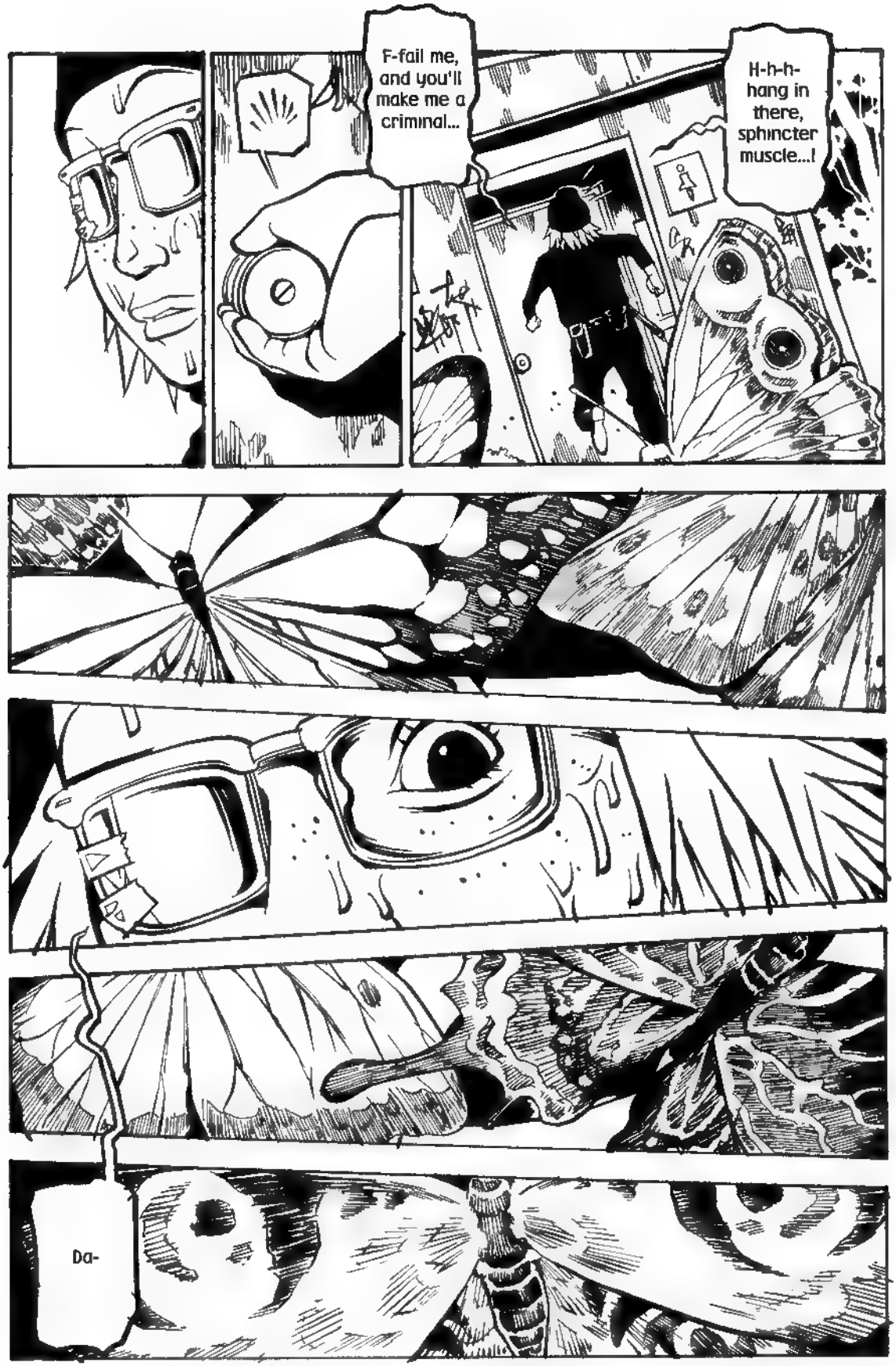
I-I believe so...
I-i-I believe we'll finally be able to solve this case tonight...
Are these "anomalies" also being caused by the culprit of the disappearance case...?
立入禁止
Keep Out
警察
Police
What's your take on this, Ms. Onoda...?
Hmm... I'm honestly not sure...
Wh-wh-wh-what about you, Officer Katakuri...?
...I feel like something even crazier is going to come up...
But if these strange things keep occurring in the town...

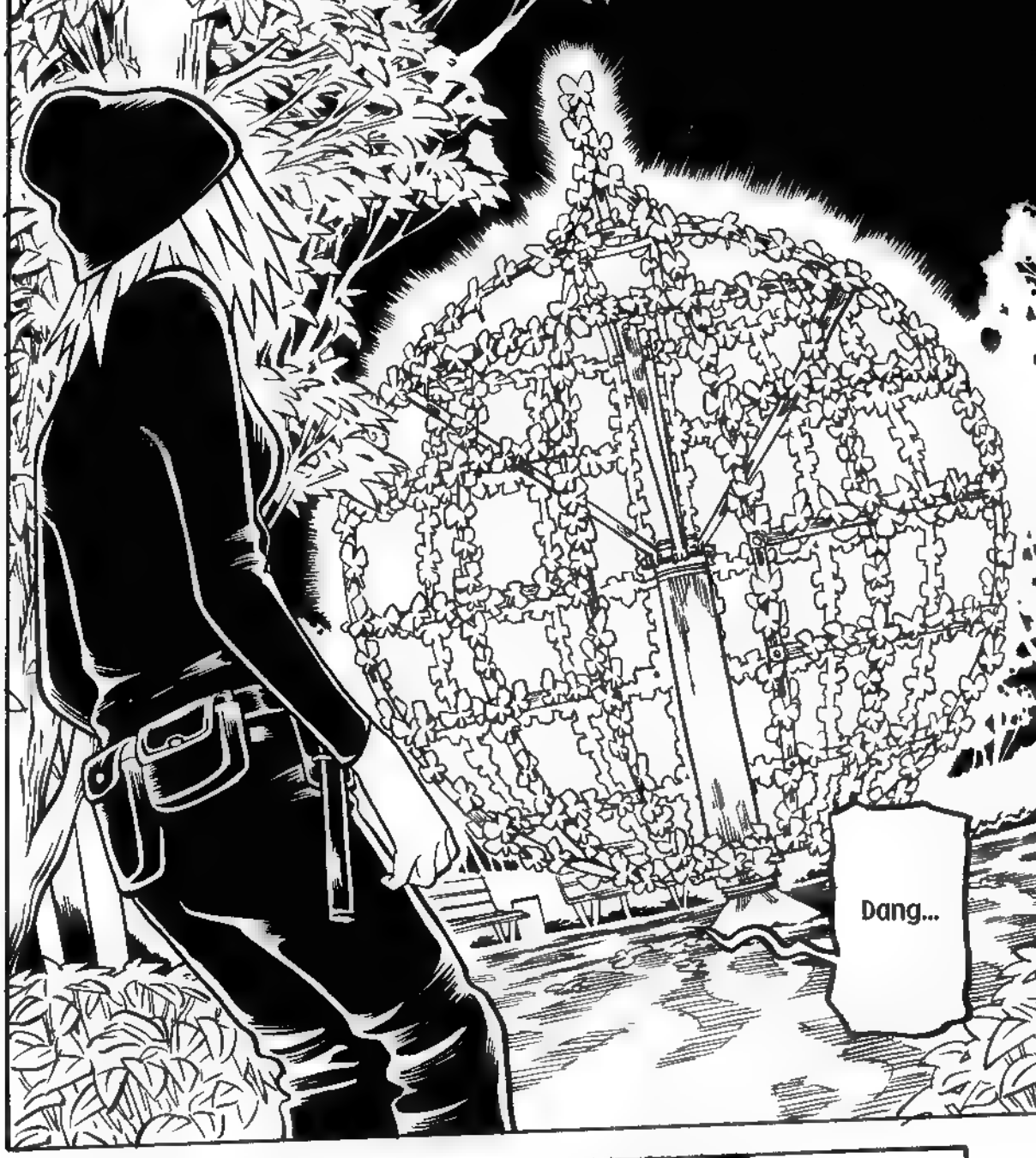

What's wrong, Ms. Onoda?!
N-n-n-no, i-i-it's just ...
Ms. Onoda?!
...
Huh?
Is something happening?
Umm... O-O-O- Officer Katakuri...
I-I-I-I'm turning my radio off...

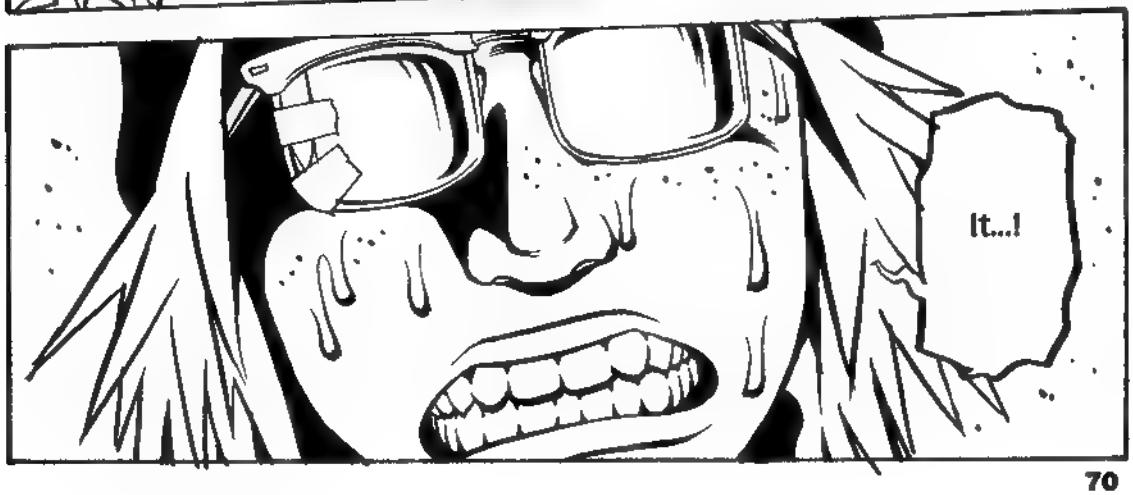

Oh...
I-I'm sorry...
I-I-I must go to the bathroom!
I-I can't hold it in much longer!

This isn't good...
Th-th-th-
OUT OF ORDER
Aaack!
A-a-as a police officer, I mustn't...
B-but th-th-that constitutes a minor offense...
W-worst comes to worst, the bushes will...
I-I can't break the law...!
I-I have no choice...!
OUT OF ORDER
PARK MANAGEMENT
But I need to stay by my post...
Th-there is another park nearby...

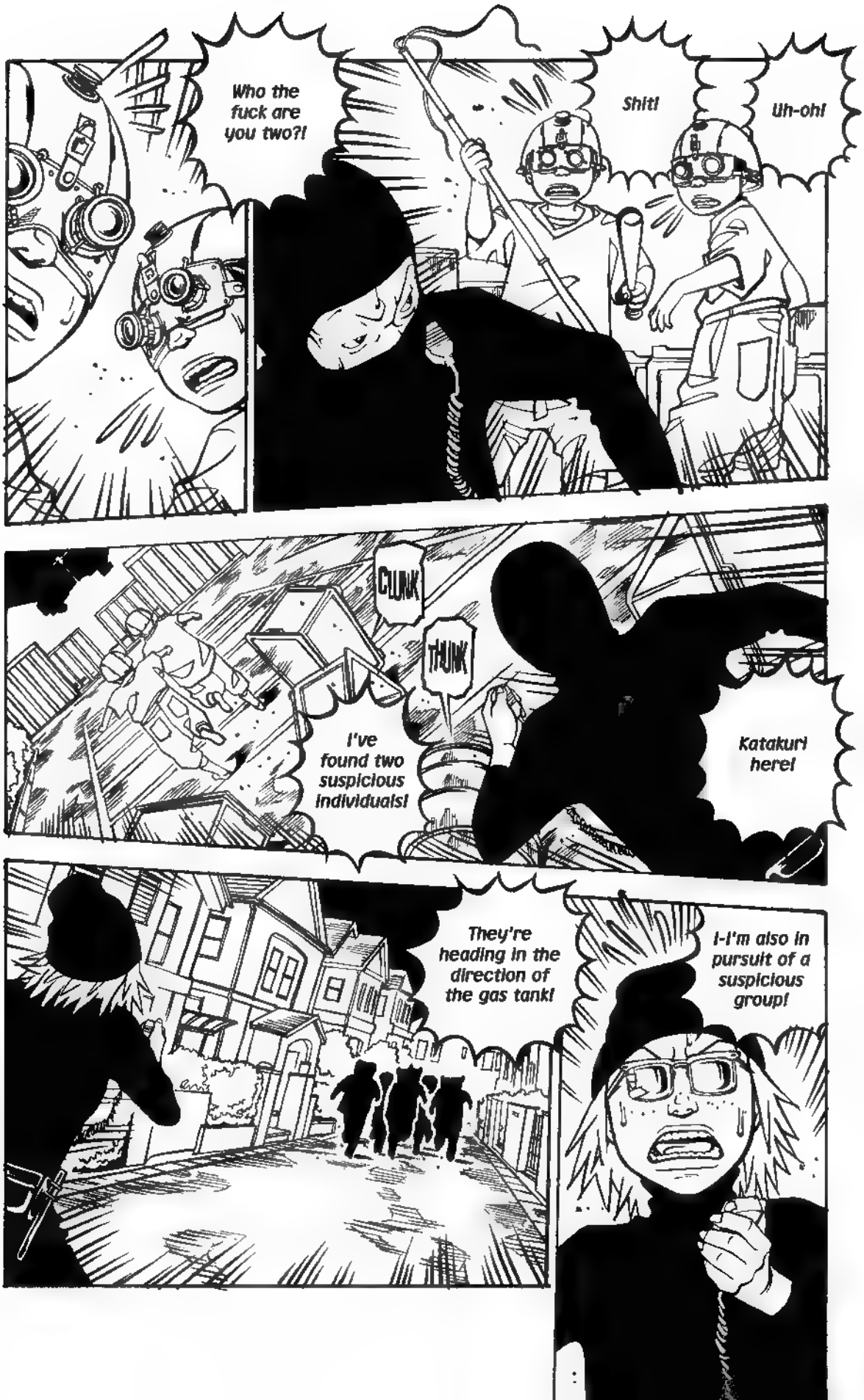
Whoa!
FWAP
Whack it on the head!
It's strug-gling!
Whoaaaa!
Owwww!
Yes! I got it!
What the hell?!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!


F-fail me, and you'll make me a criminal...
H-h-h-hang in there, sphincter muscle...!
Da-

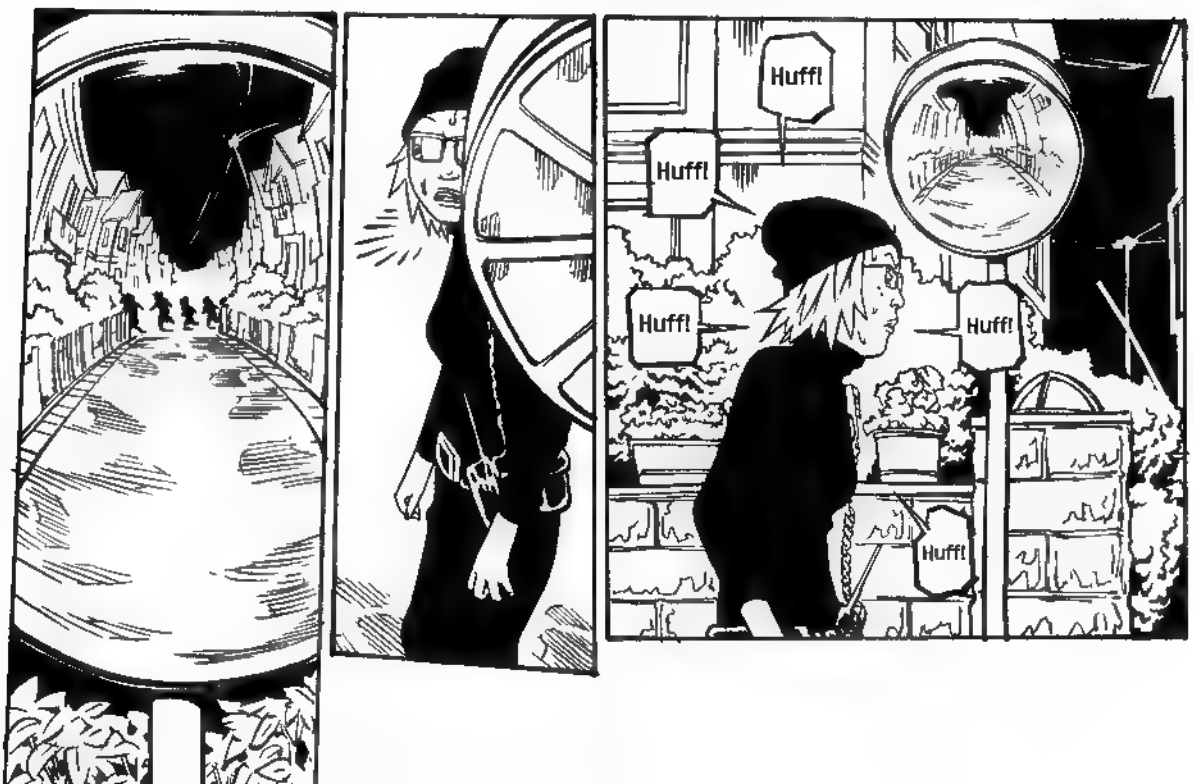

Dang...

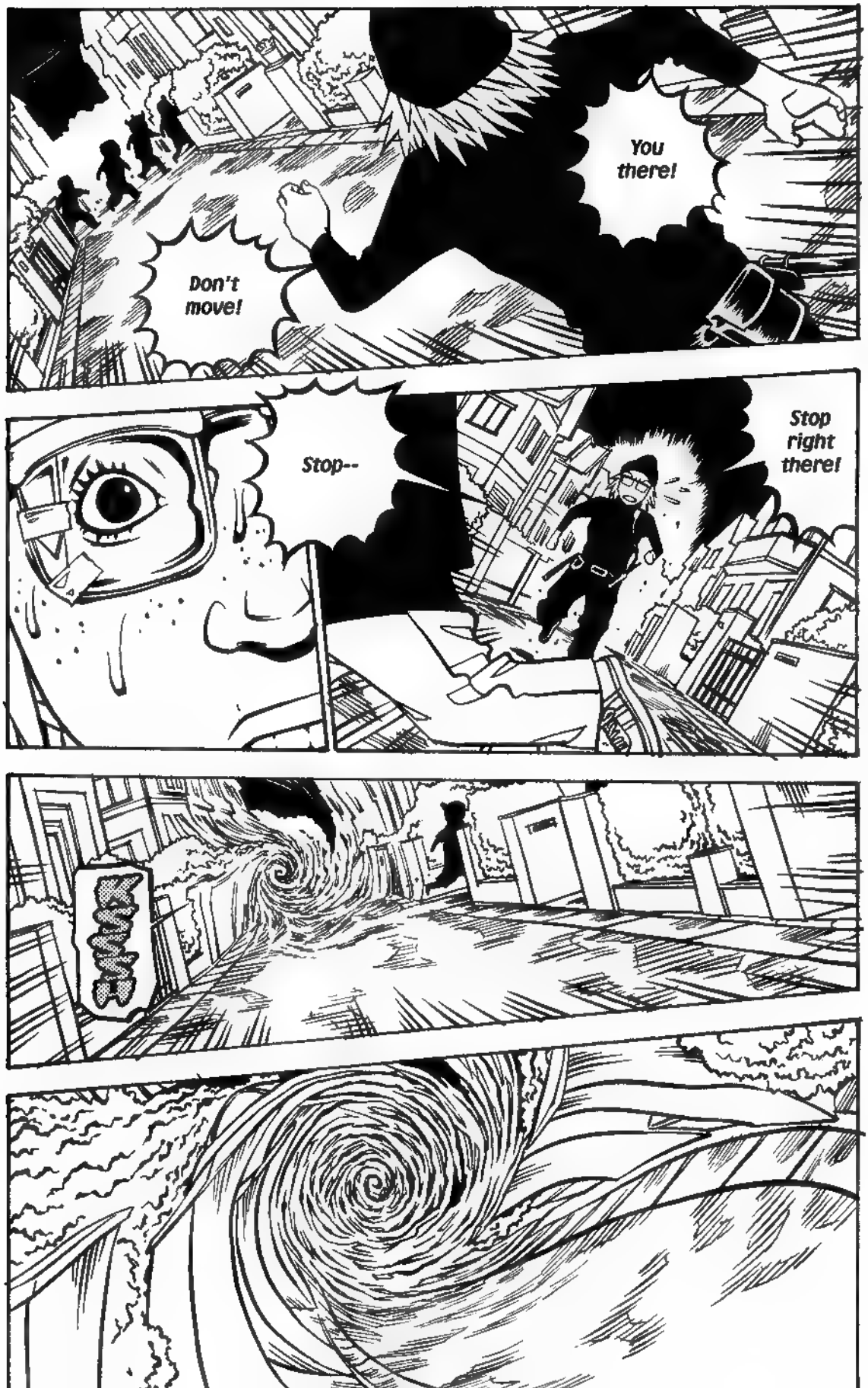

It...!

RSS-STILL!
Hey...!
?!
RUSH
S-s-stop right this instant!
Hey you! S-s-s-stop right there!
Ahhhhhh!
Grahhhhhhh!
SNAP

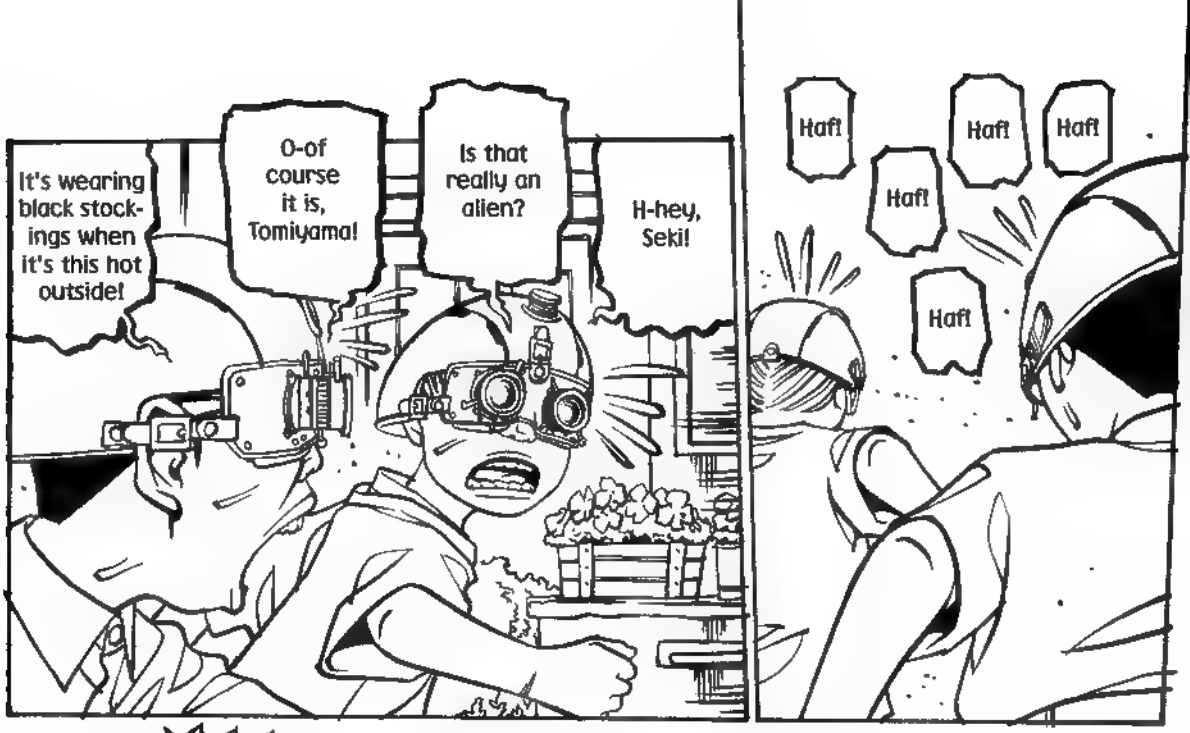

Who the fuck are you two?!
Shit!
Uh-oh!
CLUNK
THUNK
I've found two suspicious individuals!
Katakuri here!
They're heading in the direction of the gas tank!
I-I'm also in pursuit of a suspicious group!

I-I-I-I'm from Kamikawa Police Station!
F-f-f-freeze!
?!

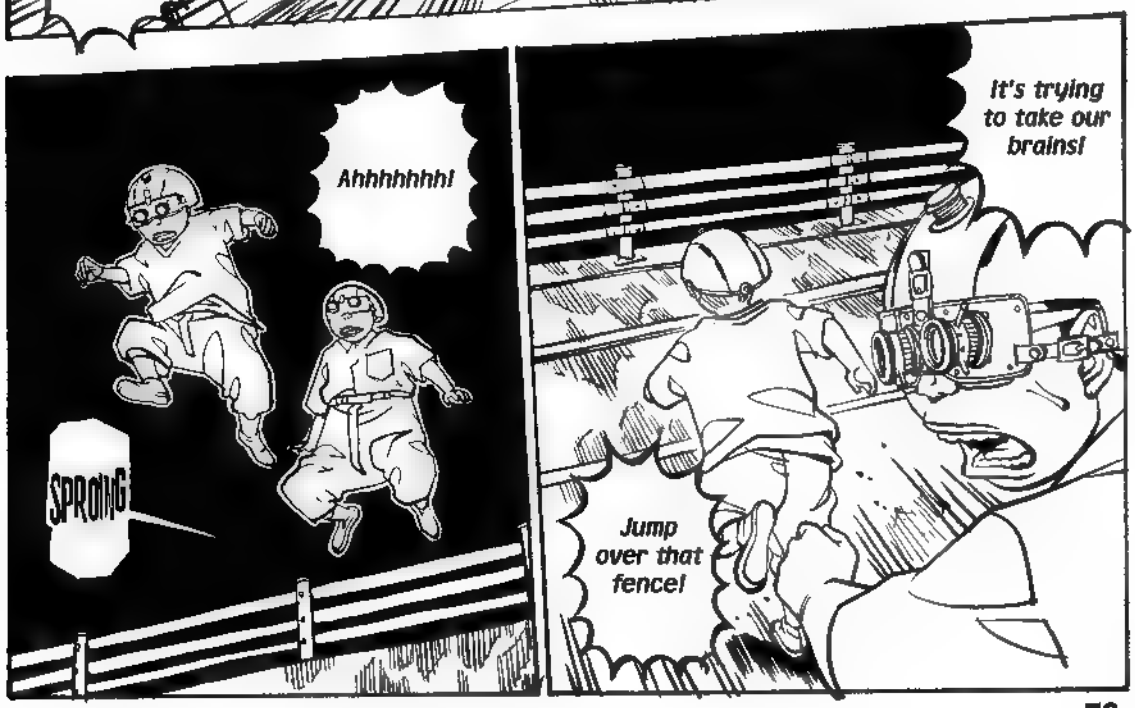

Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!

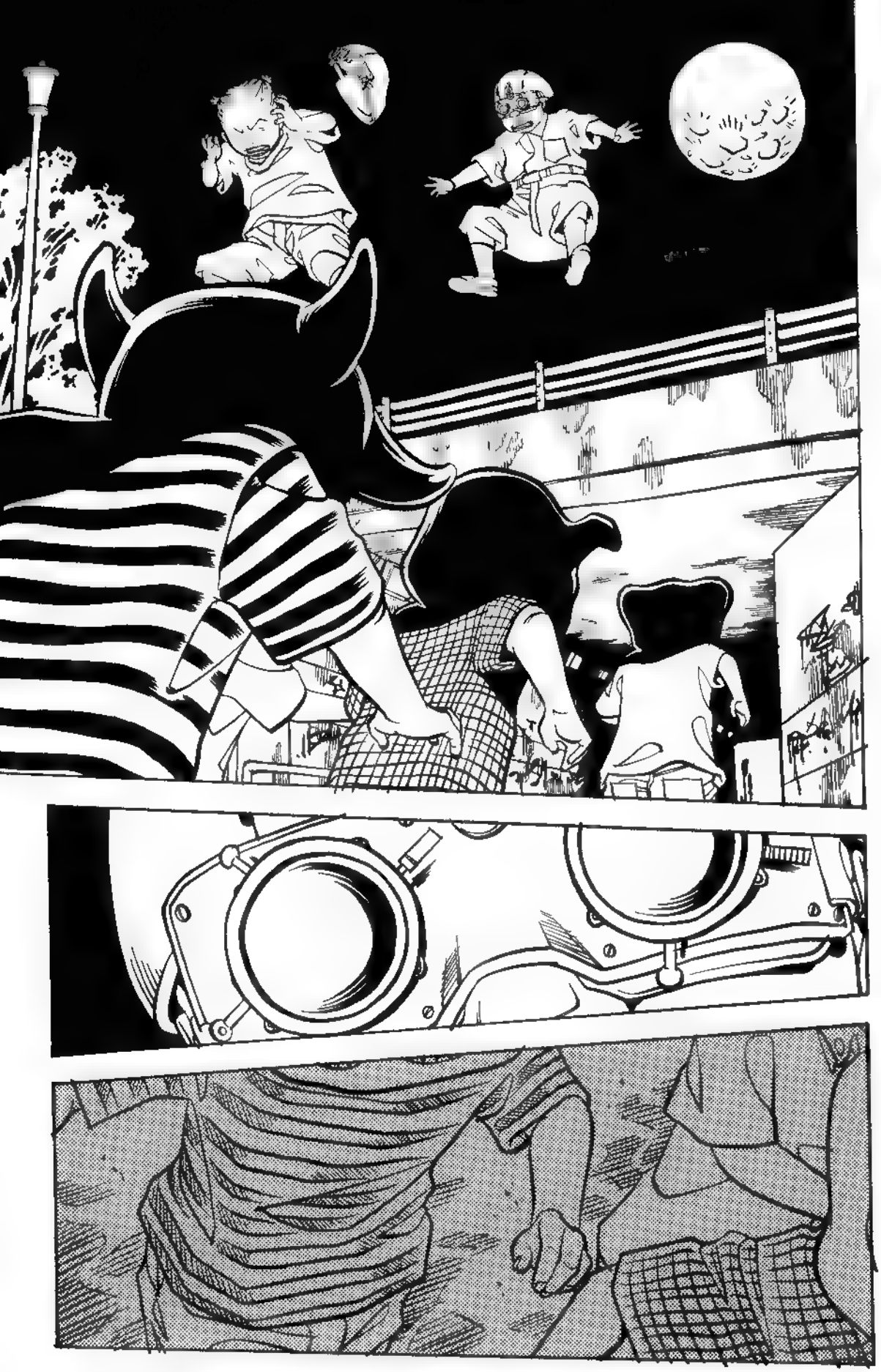

You there!
Don't move!
Stop--
Stop right there!
SWIPE

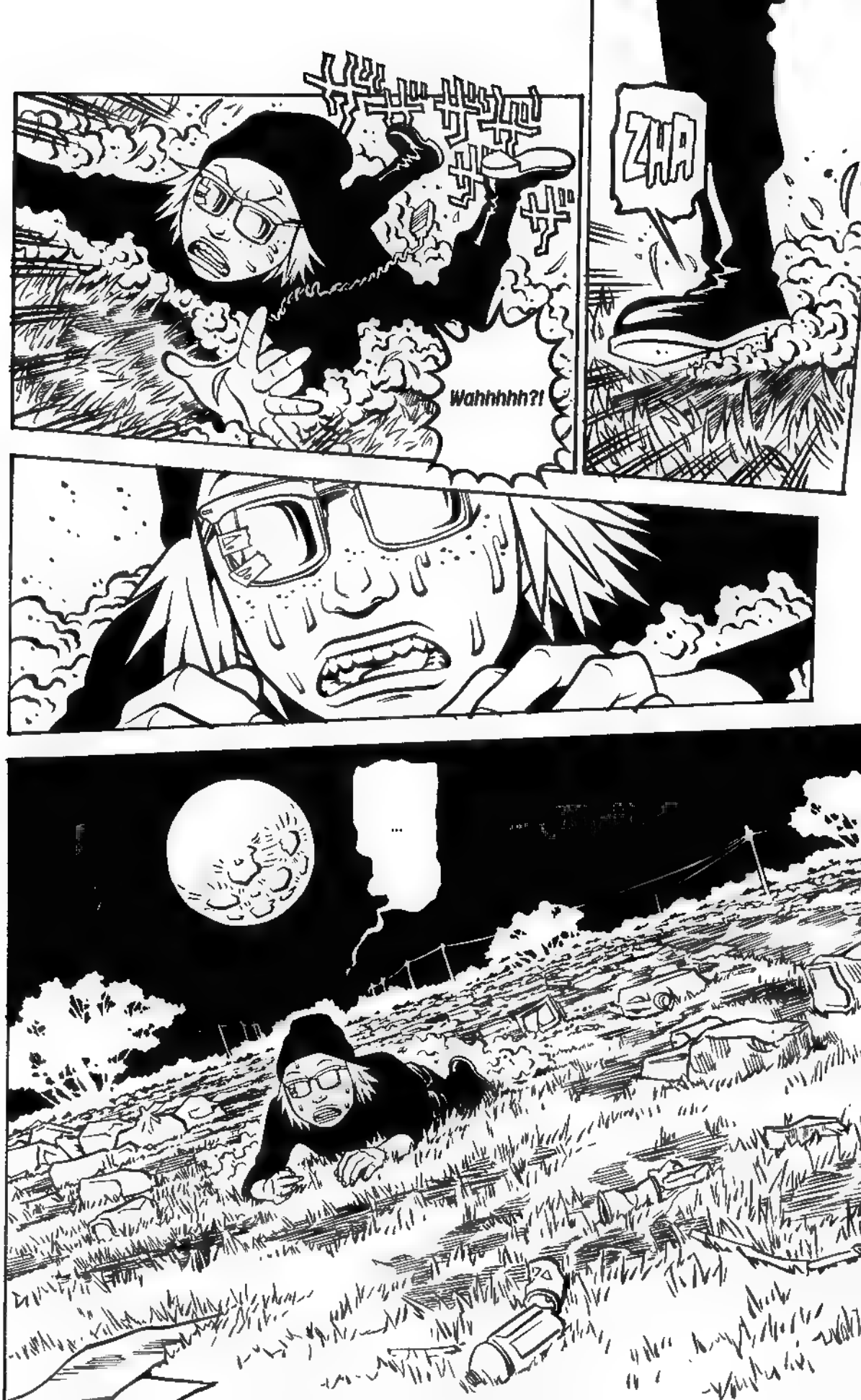
Ah...
Ahhhhhhhhh?!


It's wearing black stockings when it's this hot outside!
O-of course it is, Tomiyama!
Is that really an alien?
H-hey, Seki!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!

You fucking bastards!
You're not getting away with this!
B-but it's chasing us like crazy...


Ahhhhhhh!
SPRONG
It's trying to take our brains!
Jump over that fence!



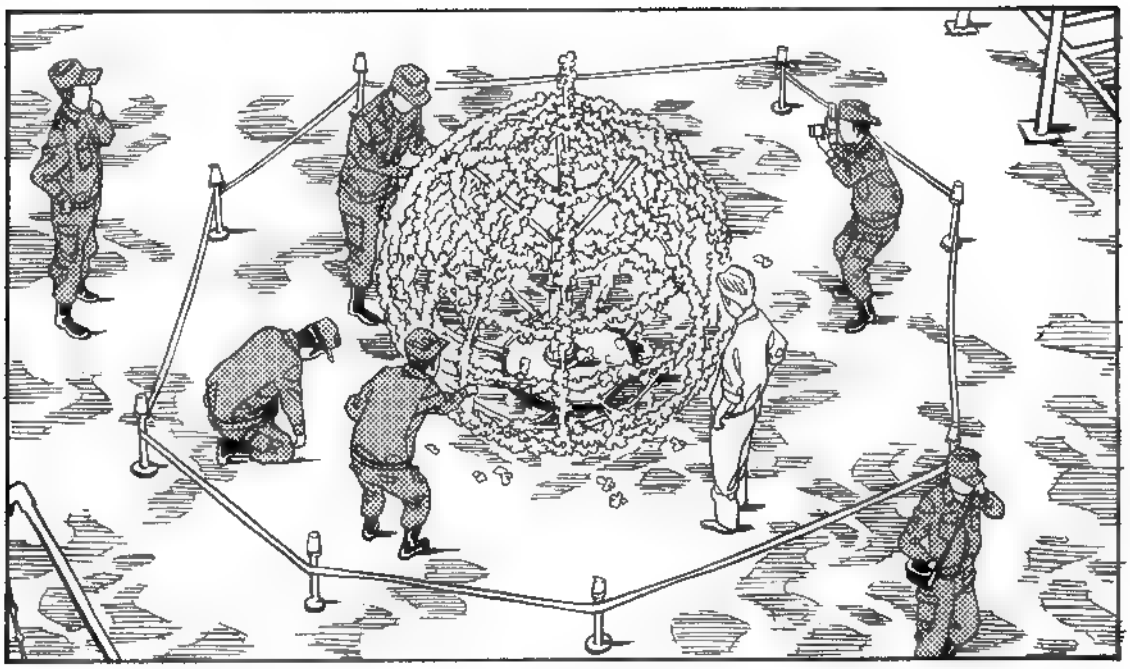

ZHA
Wahhhhh?!
...

THUD
Owwwwww!
Owwwwww!
I hit my butt!
...
All right, you little...!
Heee-yahhhhhh!
Gweh!
THUMP
Ah!

The dummy duo!
Stupid Katakuri!
そいるニュータウン交番
Soi New Town Police Box
Where did you get these things...?
We were trying to capture the aliens that are appearing at night...
Online...

I'm saying, Ms. Onoda might've captured those other guys if it weren't for you two getting in the way!
...
"Impaling pubic serpents?"
Do you guys know what "impeding public servants" means?
What's he talking about?!
These kids gave us a description of the perps, and we made a sketch, but...
Mr. Katakuri, take a look.
Sigh ...
These two are the ones to blame!
It wasn't your fault, Ms. Onoda!
Owwww!
Are you kidding me?!
What the hell?!

I-I didn't get a good look either... It was quite dark...
I don't know. I had my eyes closed.
Right, Tomiyama?!
But that's what they really looked like!
This is a *police* case. Got it?!
Paranormal my ass!
Those were clearly aliens!
This is a paranormal case that extends beyond the scope of human comprehension, and...
...the police wouldn't have a chance in the first place!
...
Besides, if we really are up against something like that...



Looks like they were cut out from encyclopedias or something.
These aren't real.

Hey! Stop poking around!
He's totally out of it.
POKE POKE

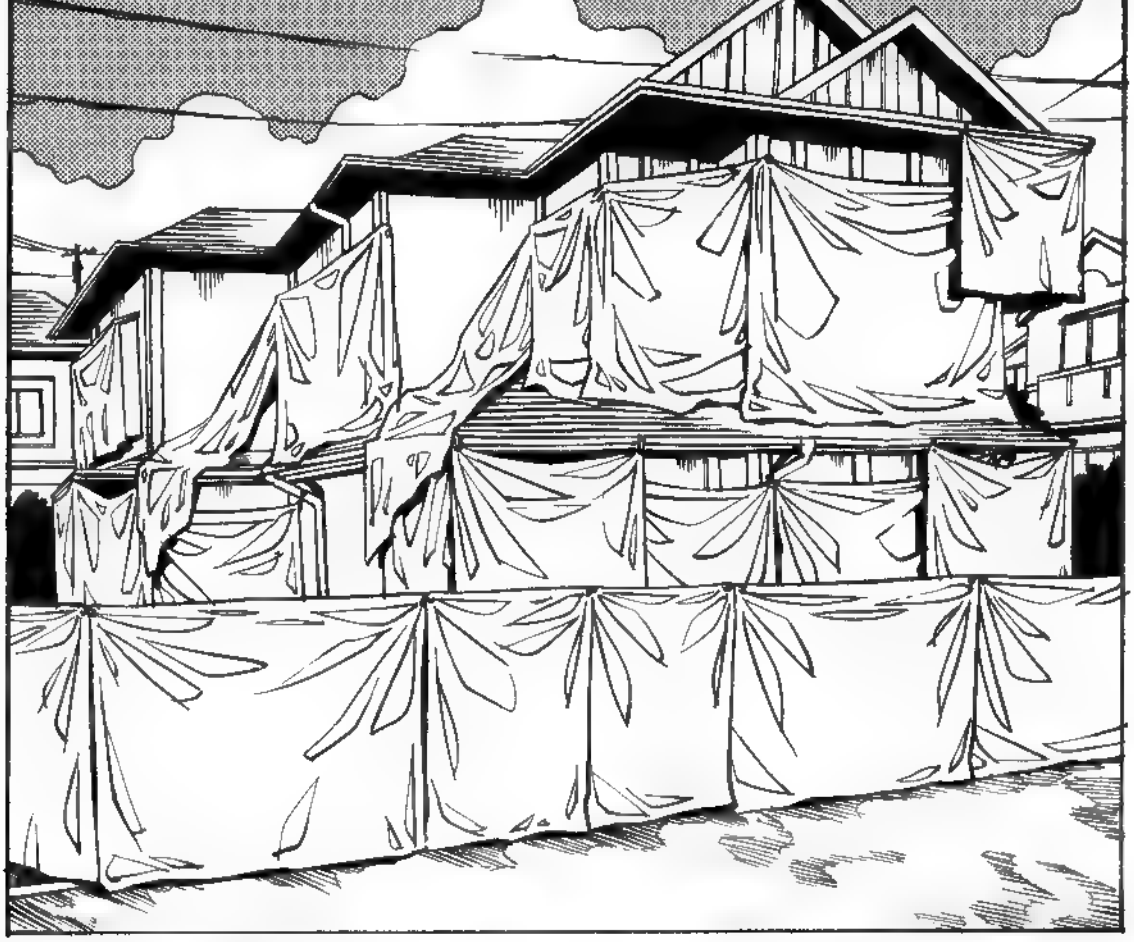
Ohh, he wasn't at the station, and he's not answering his phone either.
Where's Mr. Yokoi, by the way? Is he not here again?

Ohh... Of the encyclo-pedia?
Maybe they cut that one out from the cover.
Yeah, that makes sense.
It's thick and glossy. See? Look.
Look, this one's made from a differ-ent kind of paper.
Stop pulling on my shirt! Act like an adult, will you?
A name?!
A-a-a name?!
Yeah, look.
Hey, you're right. There's a name written on the back.
A name.
3-B
Hiroshi Ishikawa

SOIL
Block 2-6 [End]

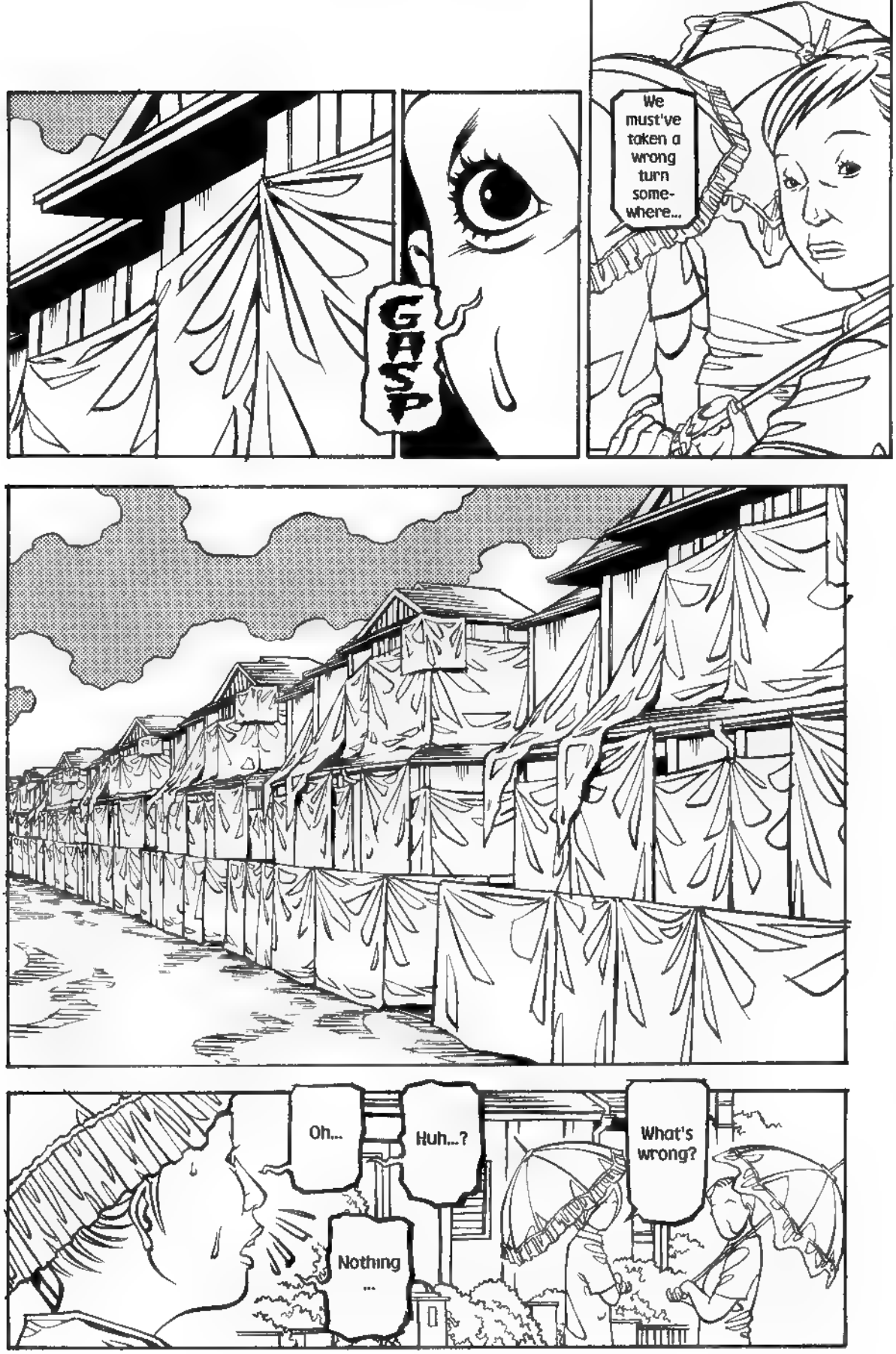
SOIL

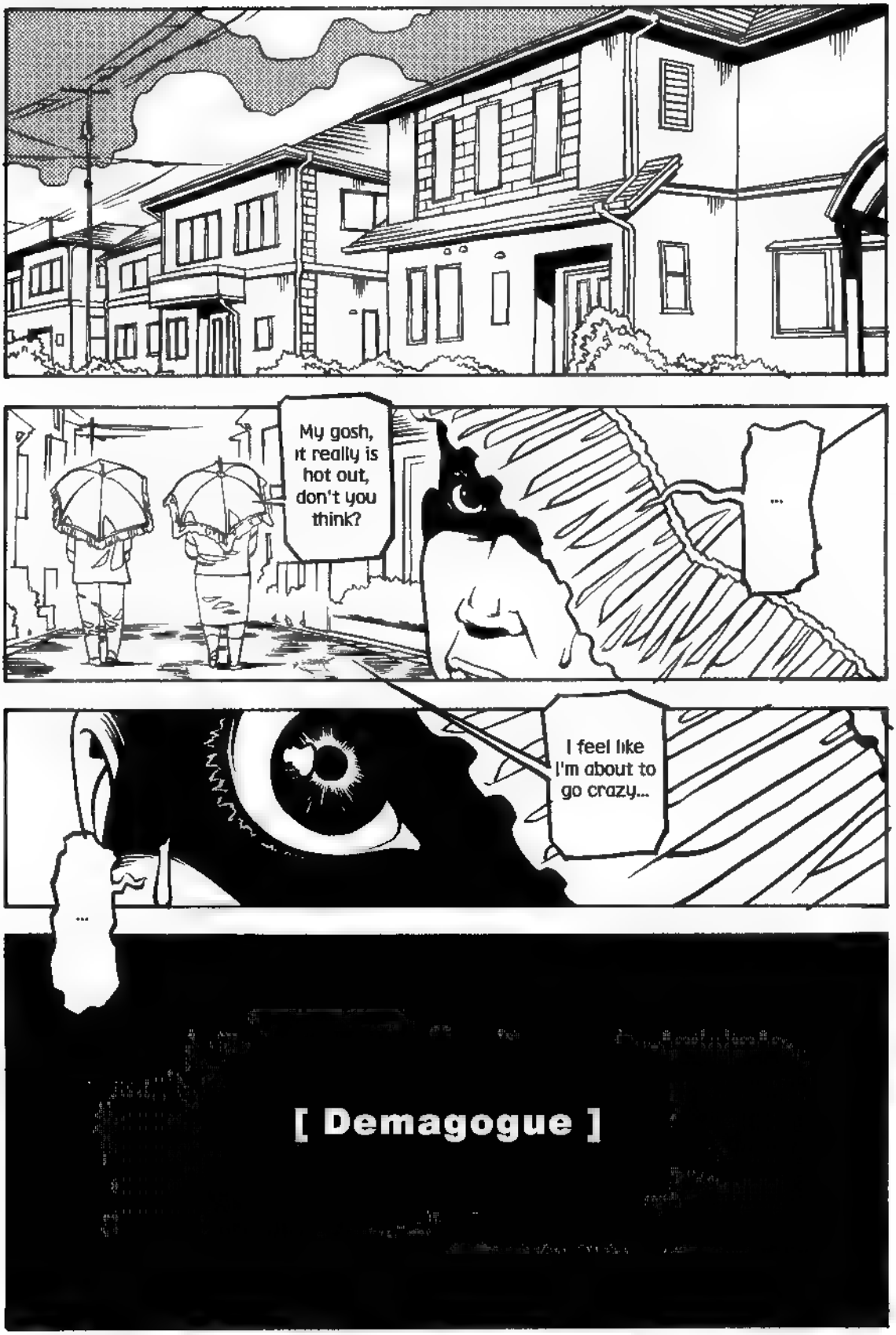
Block 2-7 [Demagogue]

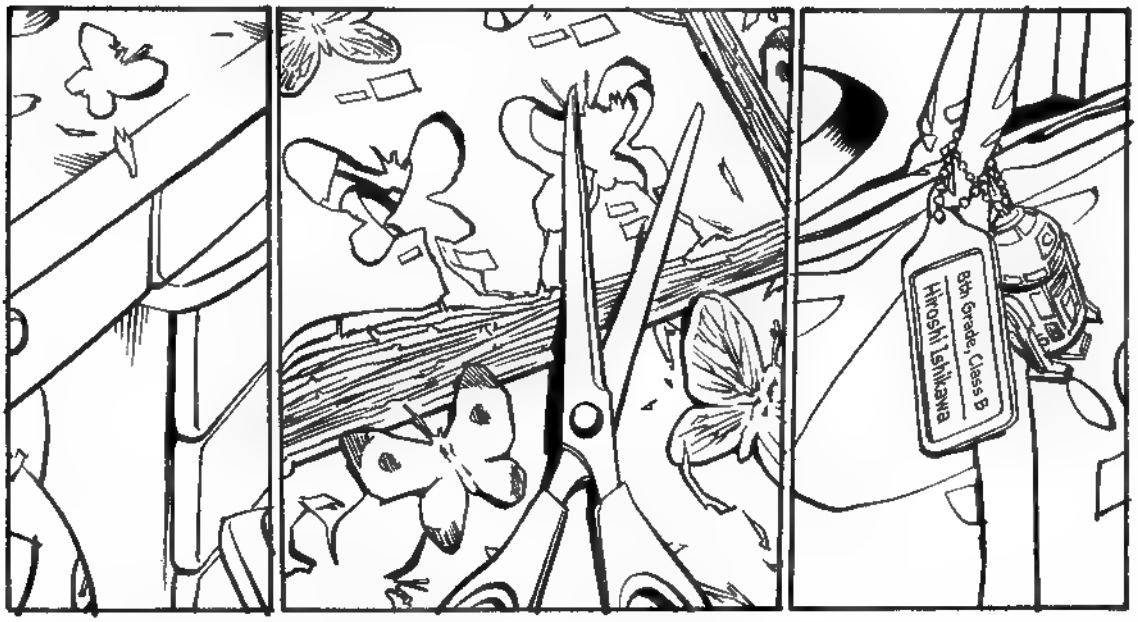


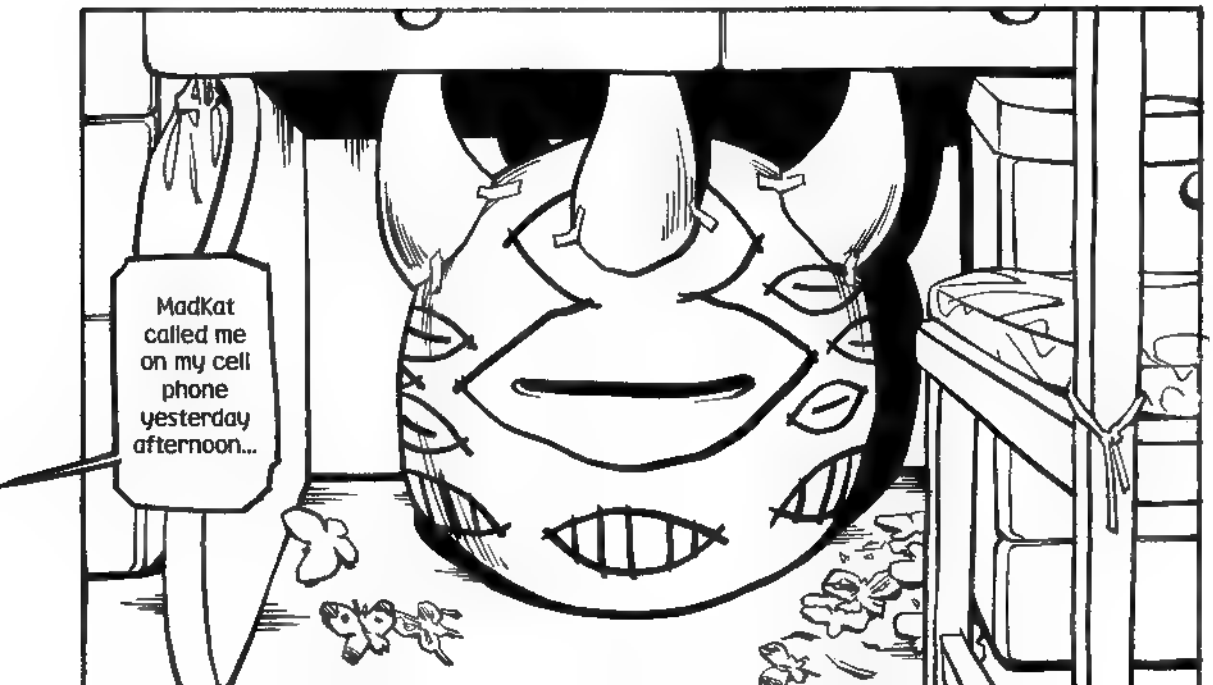
BLOCK 2-7

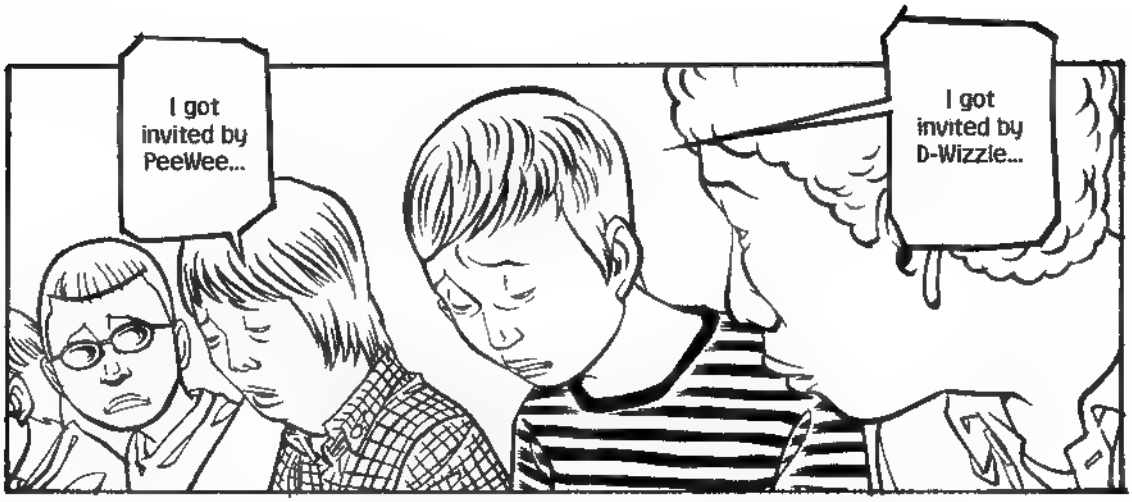
...and no one would move in after something like that.
I heard he didn't have any relatives...
It's so unpleasant... I wish they'd at least remove those blue covering sheets.
How long is the council president's house going to stay this way...?
Huh?
Strange things are happening in the town, as always...
Sometimes I think, if only the council president were still alive...
Oh yes...
That's strange...
I thought we just passed it...

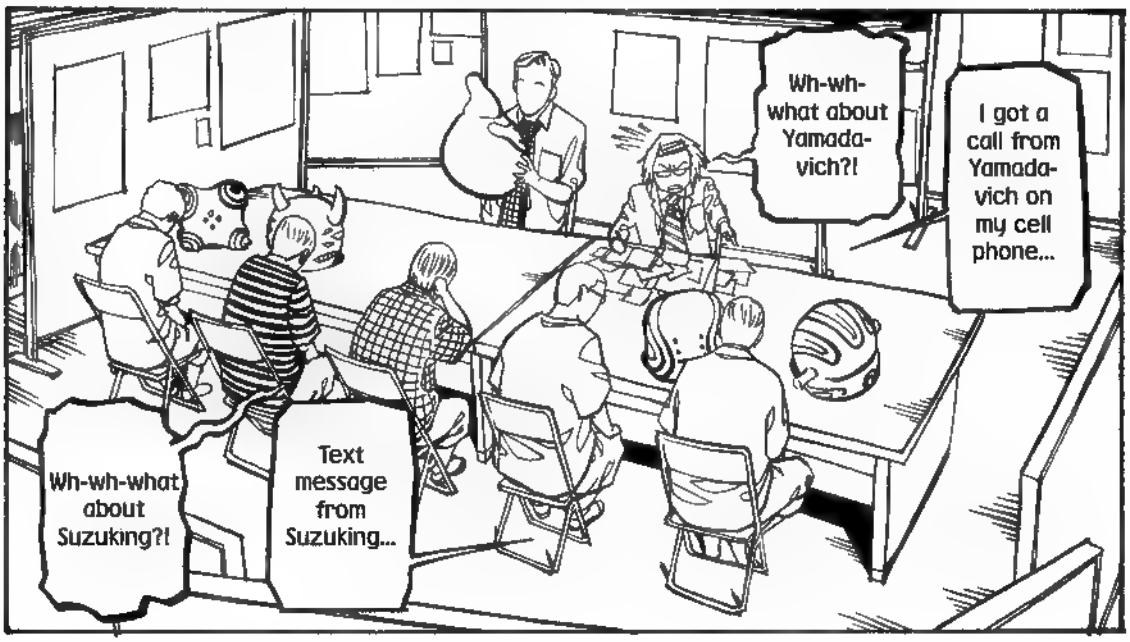

We must've taken a wrong turn some-where...
GASP
Oh...
Huh...?
What's wrong?
Nothing ...

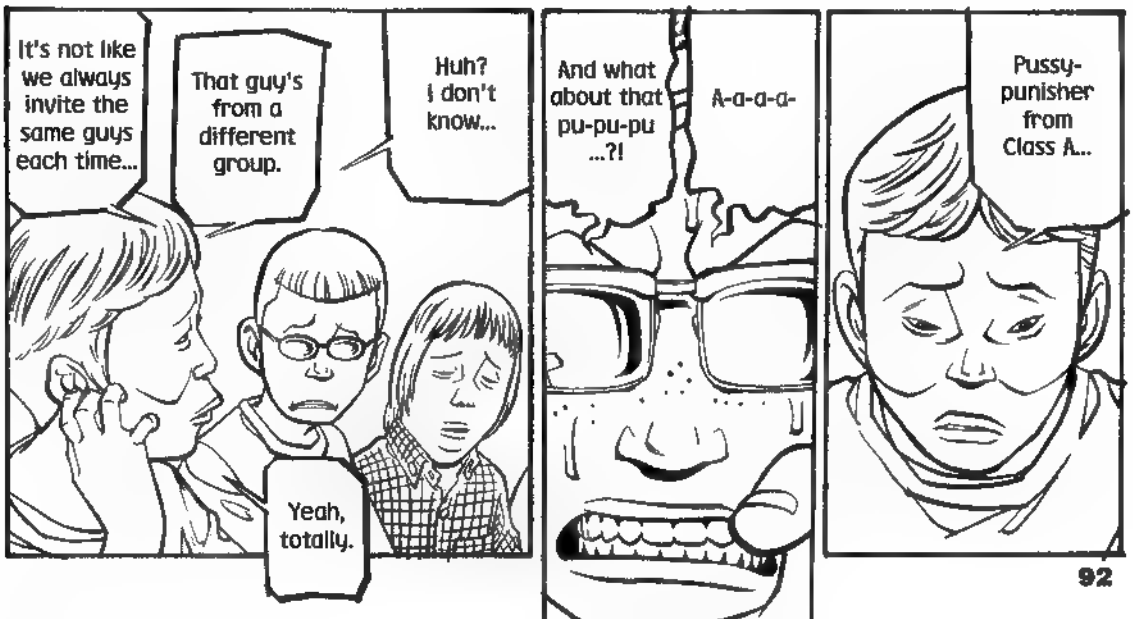

My gosh, it really is hot out, don't you think?
...
I feel like I'm about to go crazy...
...
[Demagogue]

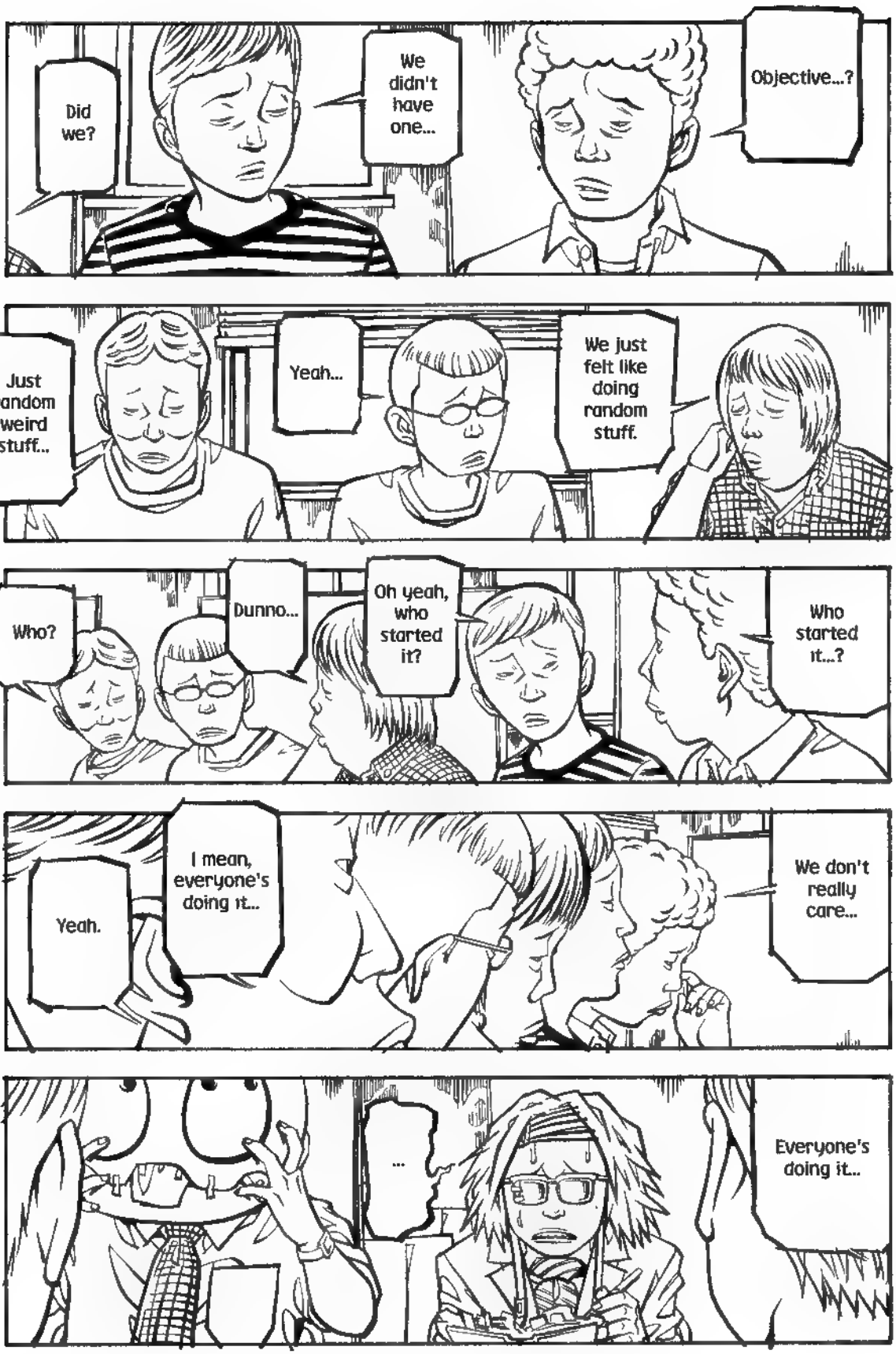

8th Grade, Class B
Hiroshi Ishikawa

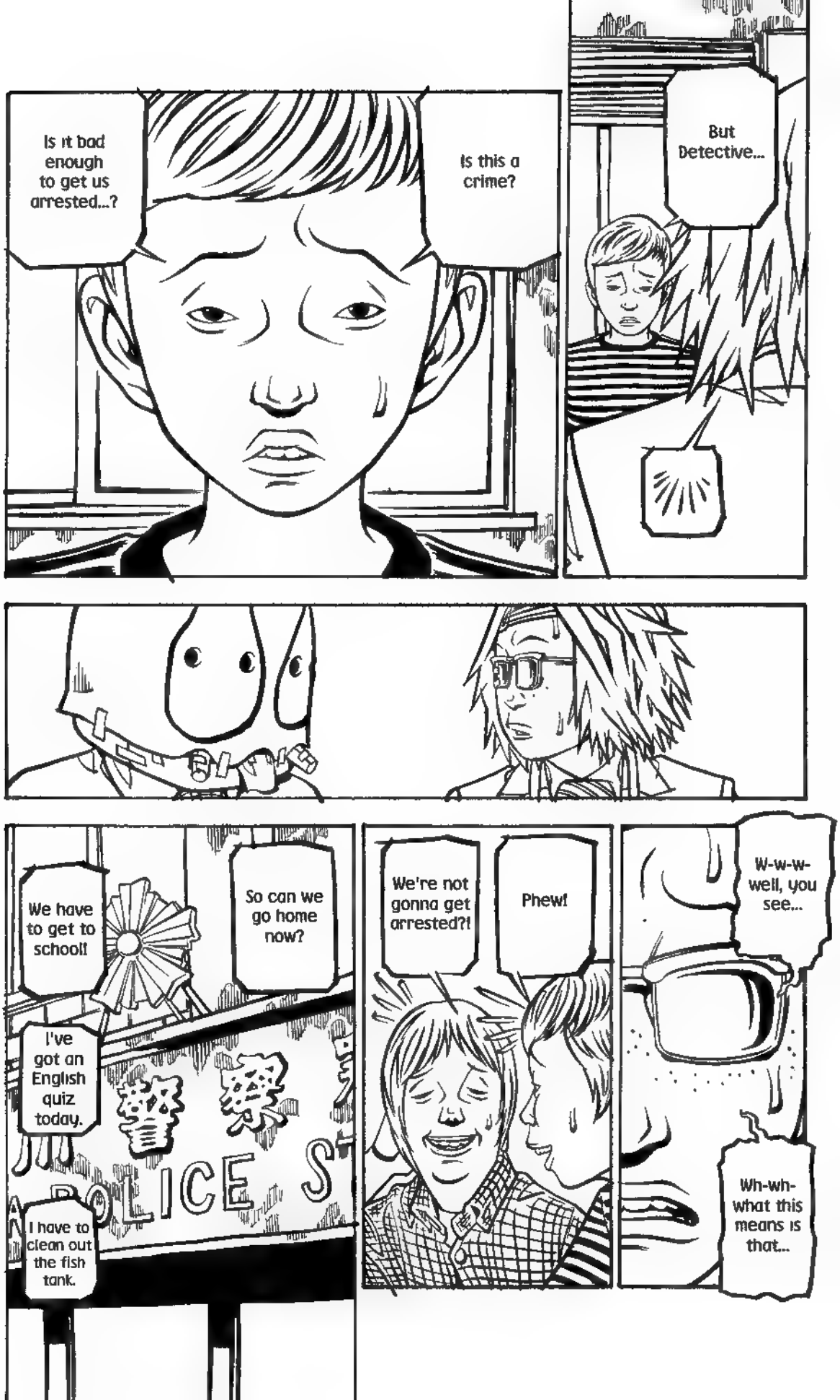

MadKat called me on my cell phone yesterday afternoon...


I got invited by PeeWee...
I got invited by D-Wizzle...


Wh-wh-what about Yamada-vich?!
I got a call from Yamada-vich on my cell phone...
Wh-wh-what about Suzuking?!
Text message from Suzuking...


It's not like we always invite the same guys each time...
That guy's from a different group.
Huh? I don't know...
Yeah, totally.
And what about that pu-pu-pu ...?!
A-a-a-a-
Pussy-punisher from Class A...

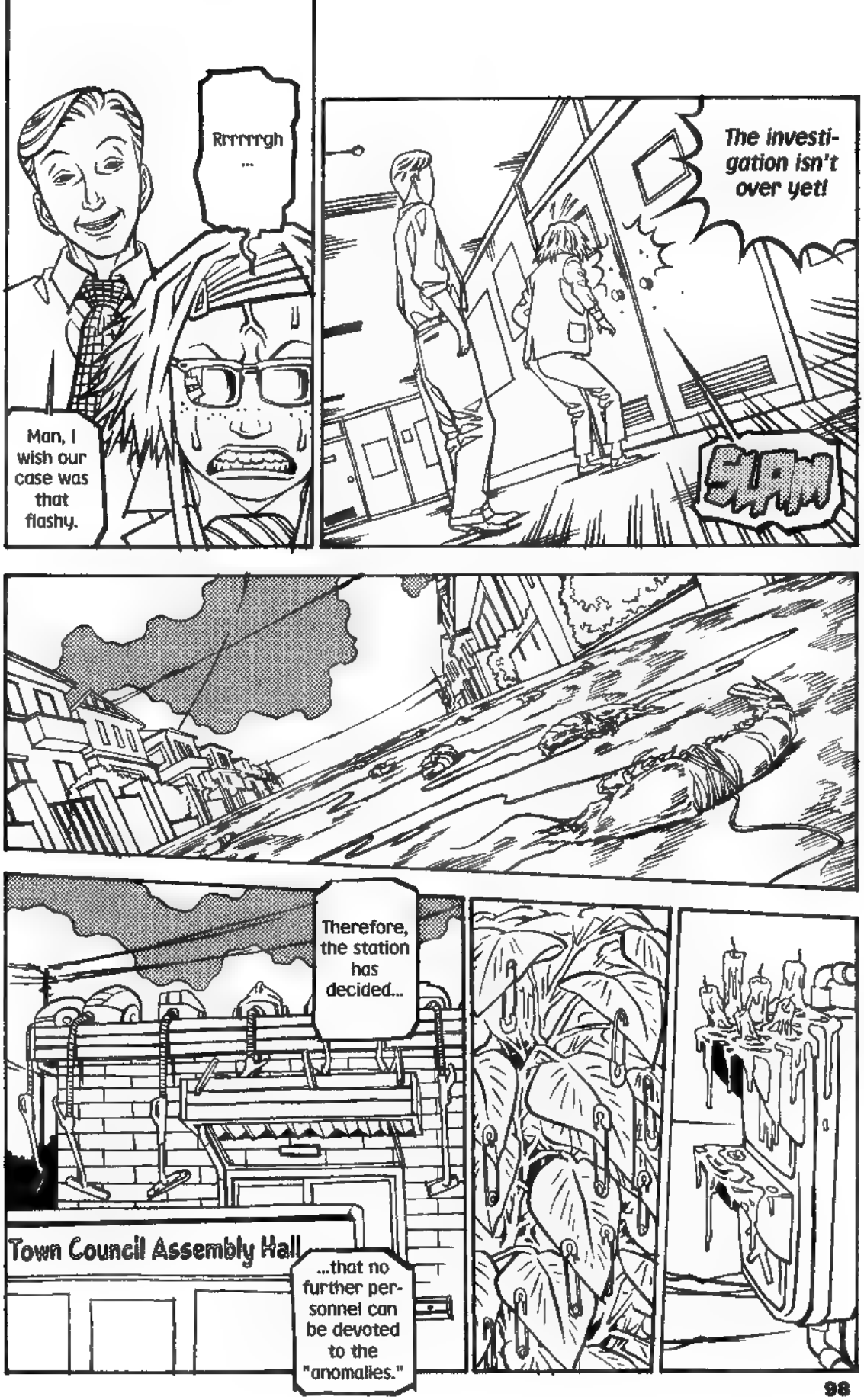

Did we?
We didn't have one...
Objective...?
Just random weird stuff...
Yeah...
We just felt like doing random stuff.
Who?
Dunno...
Oh yeah, who started it?
Who started it...?
Yeah.
I mean, everyone's doing it...
We don't really care...
...
Everyone's doing it...


Is it bad enough to get us arrested...?
Is this a crime?
But Detective...
We have to get to school!
So can we go home now?
I've got an English quiz today.
I have to clean out the fish tank.
We're not gonna get arrested?!
Phew!
W-w-w-well, you see...
Wh-wh-what this means is that...

Suzushiro Family Disappearance Investigation
鈴白家失踪事件
Well yeah...
Killing pigeons and dumping dirt on the street doesn't exactly call for a prison sentence...
SQUEAK
So there's no steadfast organization, and each exploit was conceived out of nowhere, and on its own...
This would make it extremely difficult to weed out a ringleader...
You don't need a reason to start up a fad...
I guess it was kinda like a fad among the kids...?

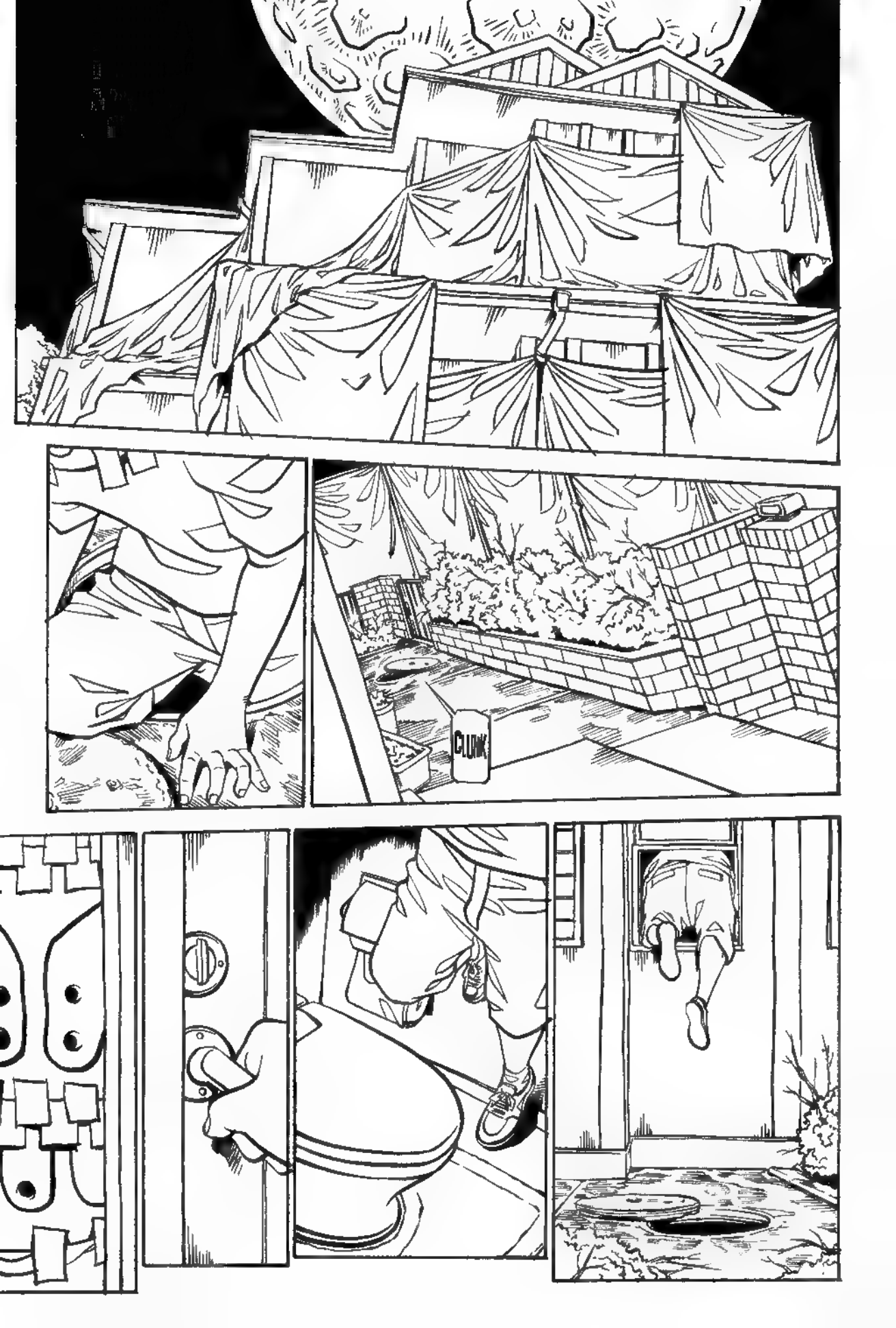
It sucks having to be here every single morning.
Mr. Yokoi's not coming anyway.
SEX
SQUEAKKKK
But there must've been someone who instigated this whole thing...
What could have been that person's objective...?
They were just having some fun, right?
B-b-b-but...
Let's leave 'em alone if there's no connection with the Suzushiro case.
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
I just don't feel like we're getting anywhere with this case.
It's all getting screwy, and I feel like I'm about to lose my mind.
...
...
SQUEAKKKKK
SQUEAKKKK
...

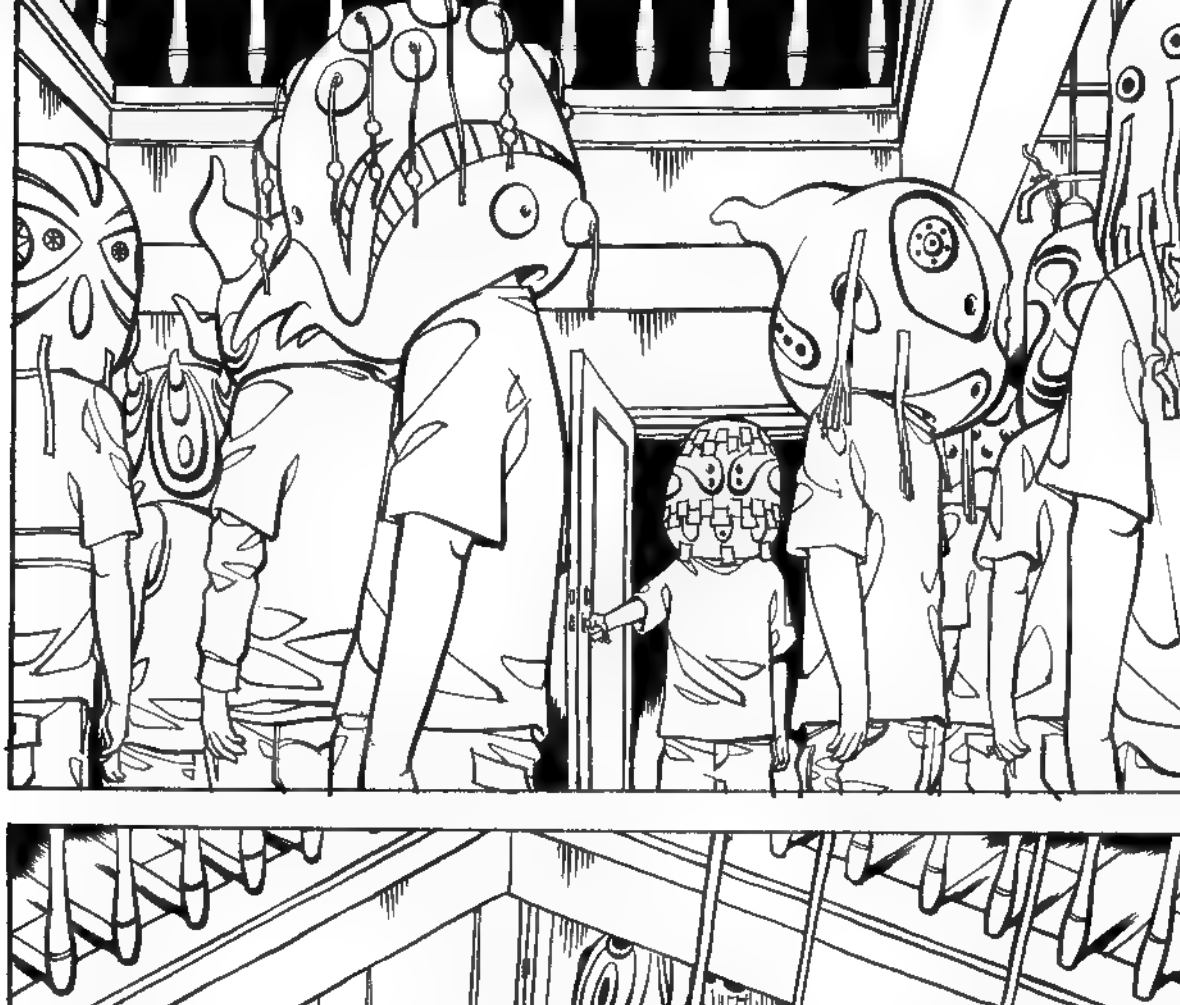
Th-this is our...!
Wh-wh-wh-what do you think you're doing?!
RIP
RIP
Get outta the way!
?!
RIP
Wow, pretty flashy.
There was a bank robbery in Kamikawa City last night!
The culprit lit a fire and killed three people. Three people!
Th-
Oh, and the lab's gonna be busy from now on!
They're not gonna have time to check on those stupid pranks anymore!


Rrrrrrgh ...
Man, I wish our case was that flashy.
The investigation isn't over yet!
SLAM
Therefore, the station has decided...
Town Council Assembly Hall
...that no further personnel can be devoted to the "anomalies."

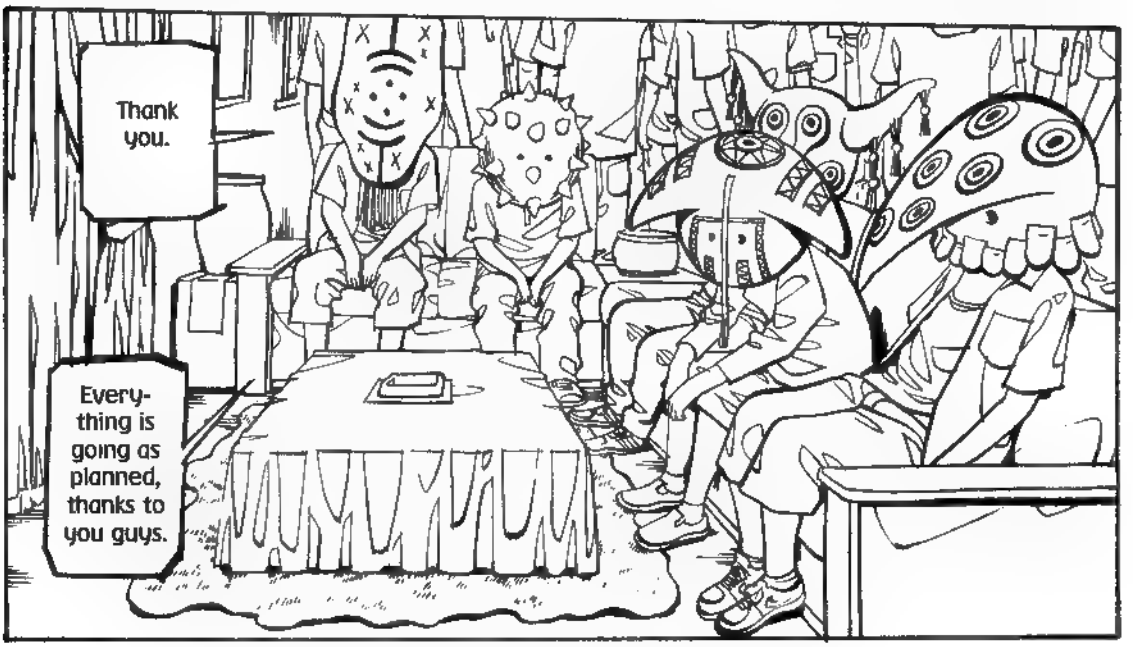
And since they appear to have no connection to the Suzushiro case...
...we really have no reason to act upon these incidents, and...
He's actually a gangster, remember?!
He's going to snap at us again!
...
Shh!
So what? Are you just going to leave us like this?
What do you mean it's not a crime?!
Oh yes.
!
Yes, I feel like we're about to lose our minds...
With all of these strange things happening...
But even if this is all child's play...

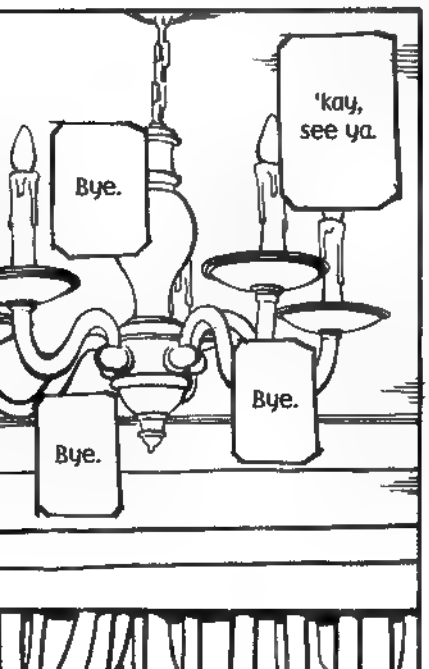
S-so you see... We're not sure how many of the children are participating in these activities...
So I want the town council to warn the parents to keep an eye out for any sort of odd behavior...
...
Oh, of course not.
My child wouldn't either.
...
He wouldn't go out at night.
Oh, not my child.


CLUNK

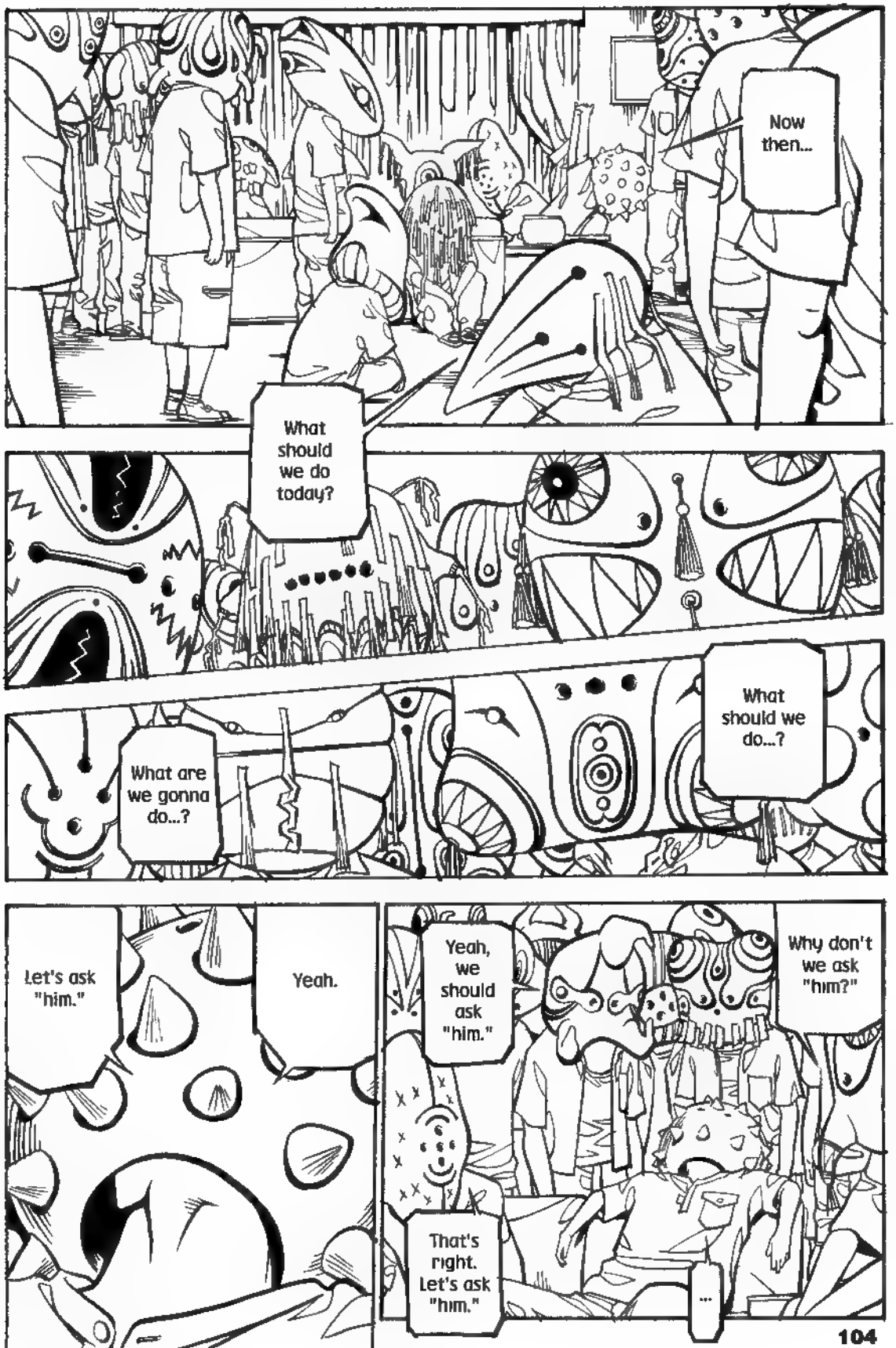


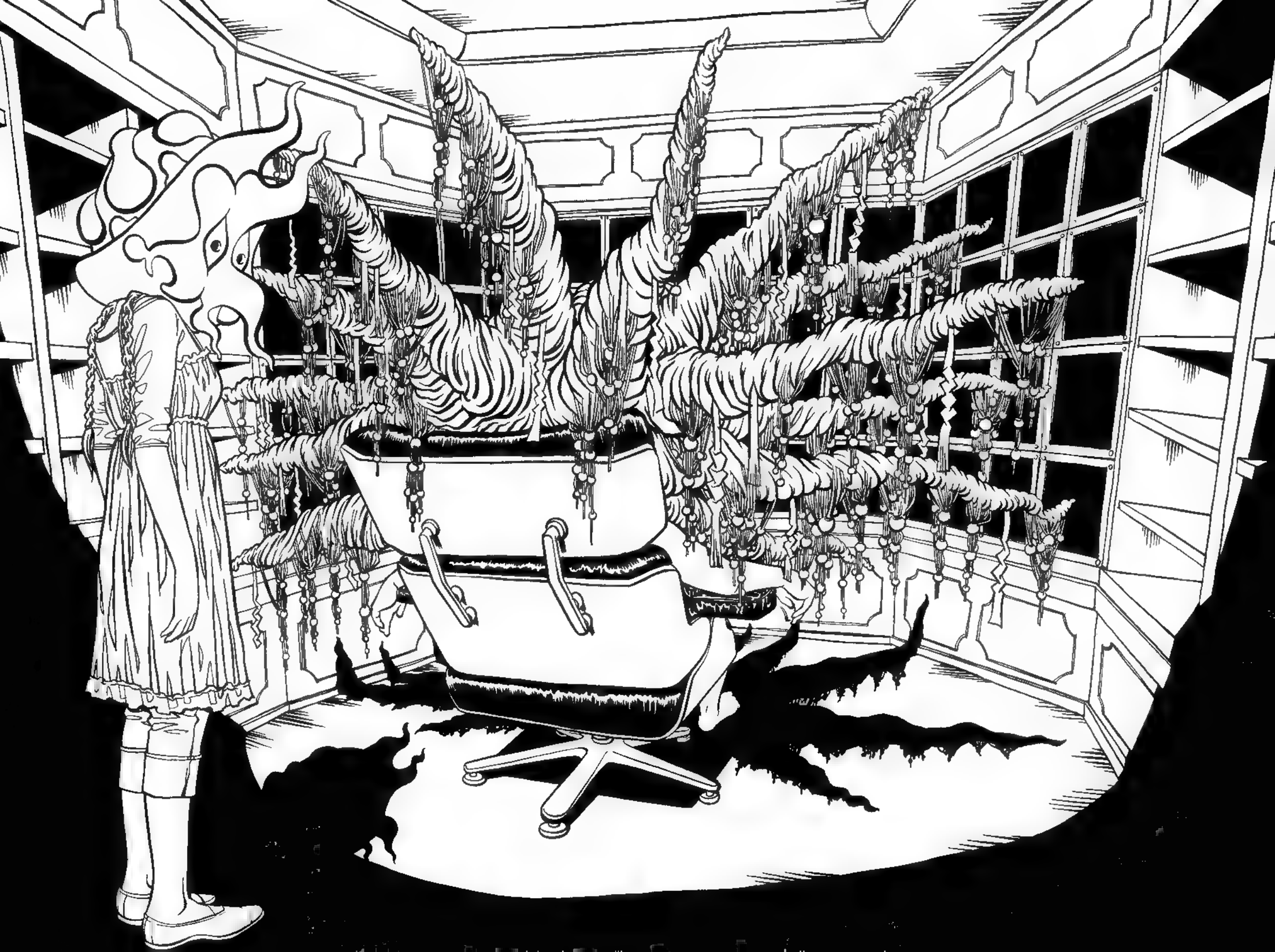
Yep, we did it perfectly.
We did it exactly like we rehearsed.
Don't worry.

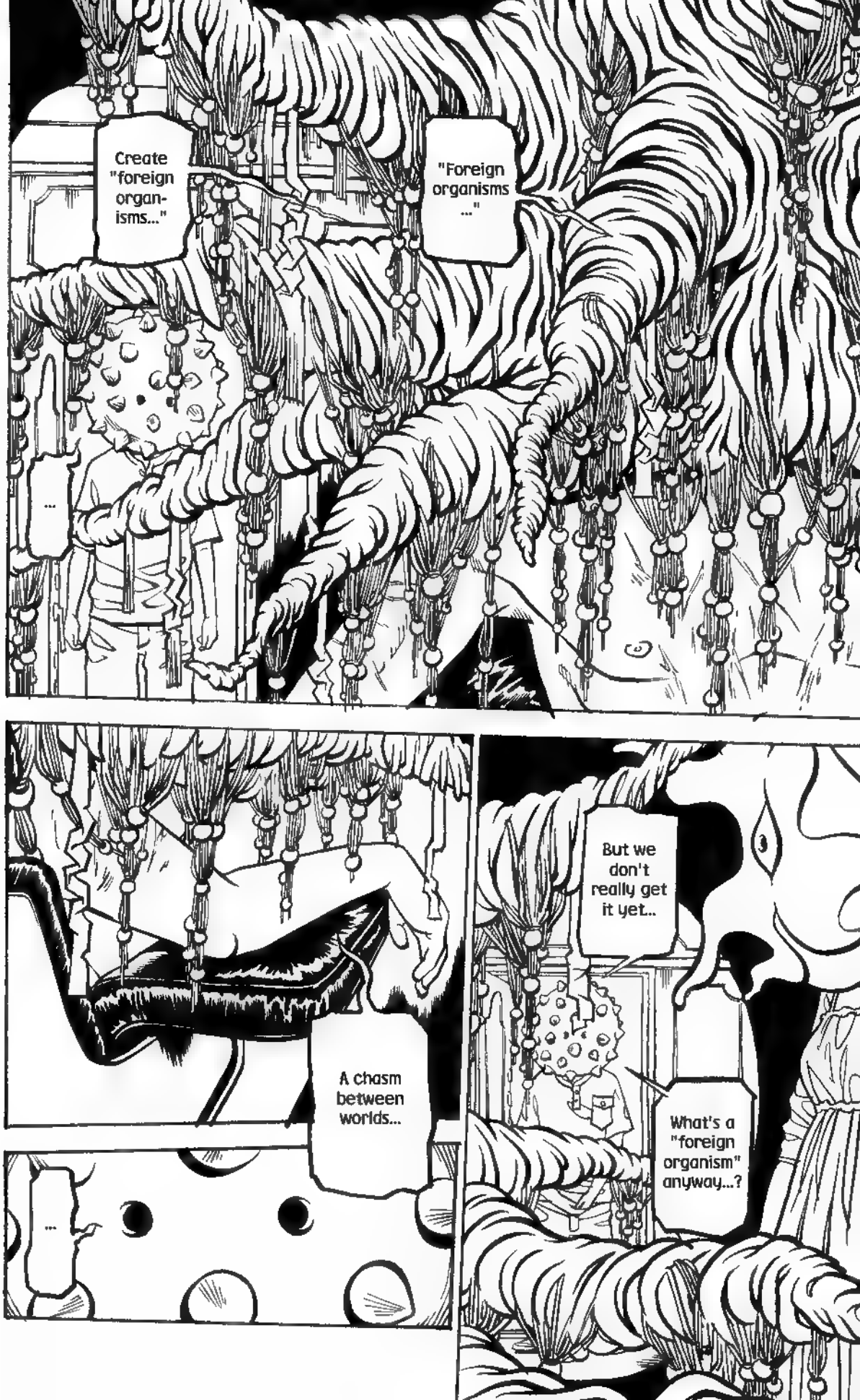

Thank you.
Every-thing is going as planned, thanks to you guys.


'kay, see ya.
Bye.
Bye.
Bye.

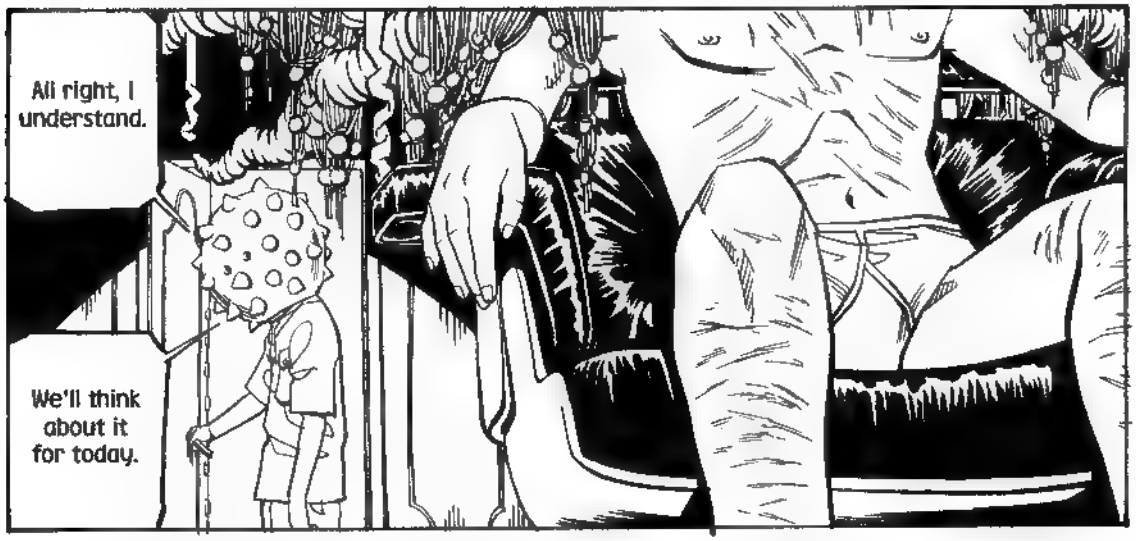
...so we're gonna head home before they notice anything.
All right, our parents are on our backs now...

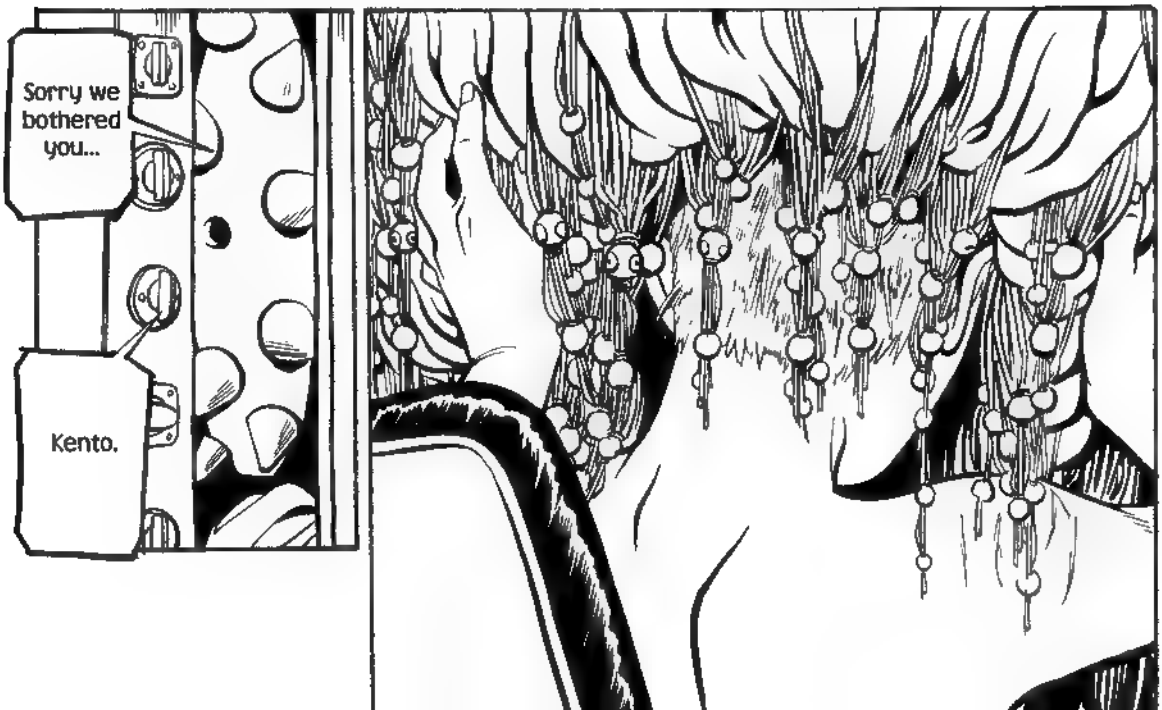

Now then...
What should we do today?
What are we gonna do...?
What should we do...?
Let's ask "him."
Yeah.
Yeah, we should ask "him."
Why don't we ask "him?"
That's right. Let's ask "him."
...




Create "foreign organisms..."
"Foreign organisms ..."
...
A chasm between worlds...
...
But we don't really get it yet...
What's a "foreign organism" anyway...?

You have to think for yourselves.
You can't ask "him" for everything.

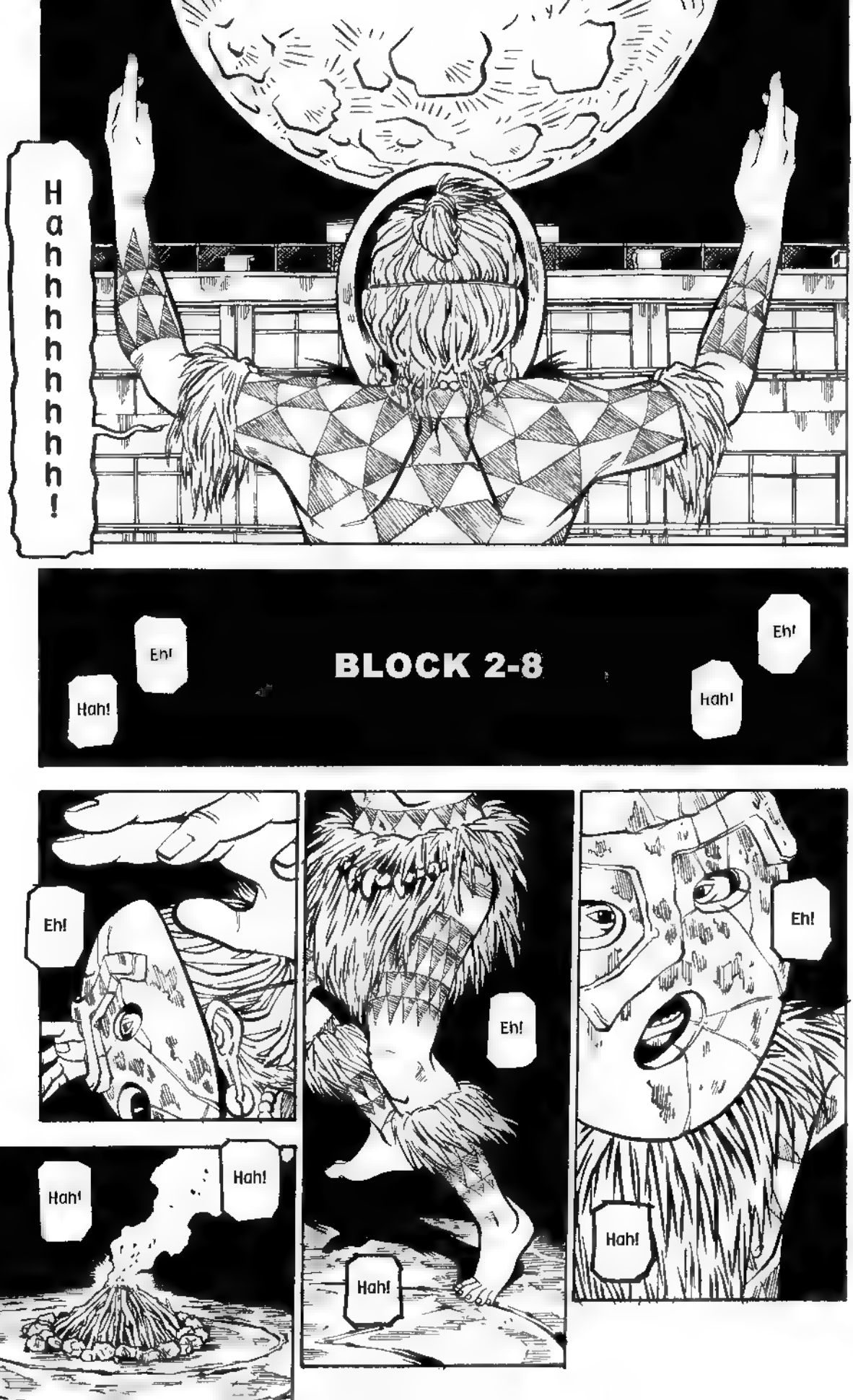

All right, I understand.
We'll think about it for today.


Sorry we bothered you...
Kento.

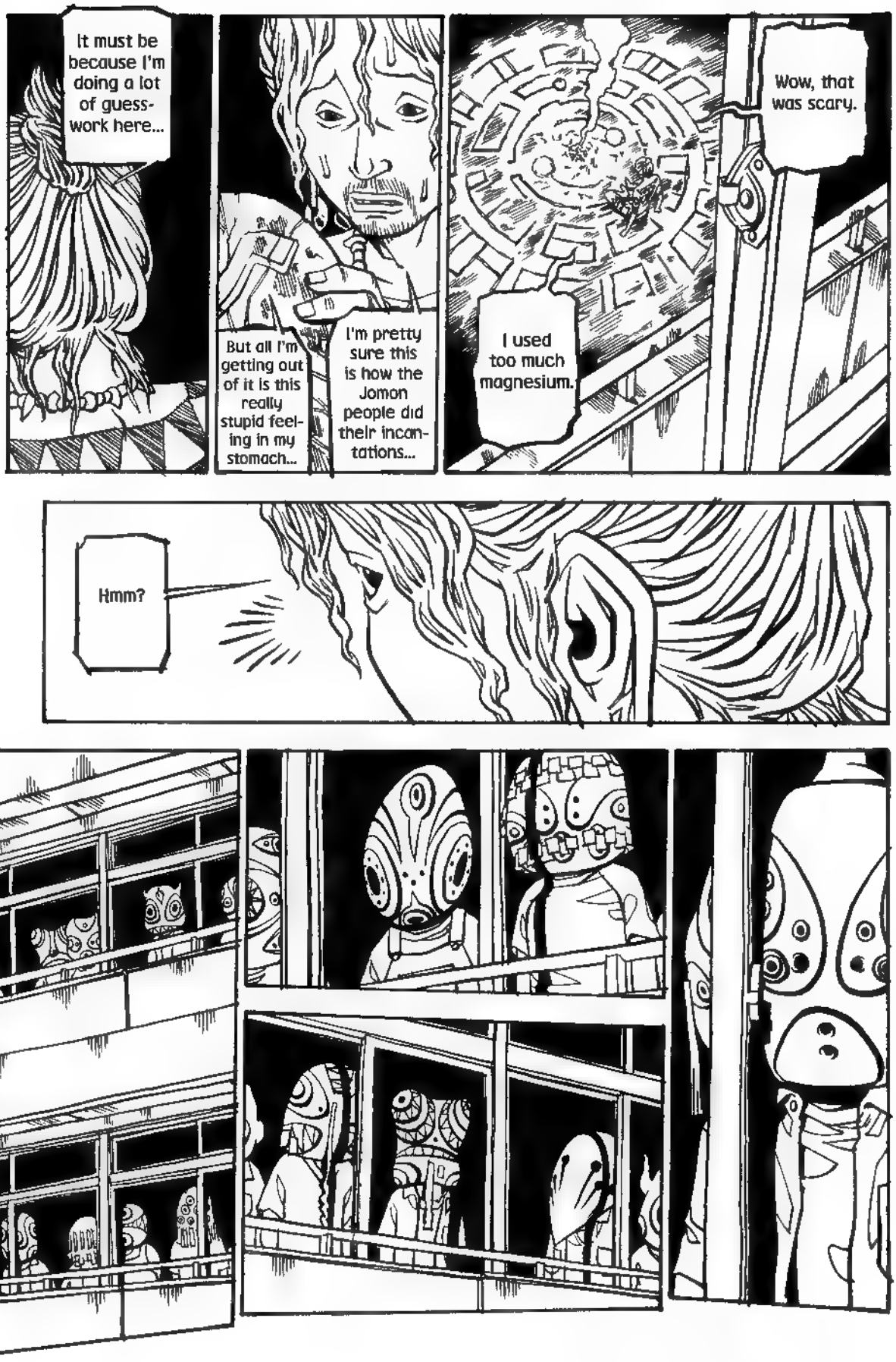
THMP

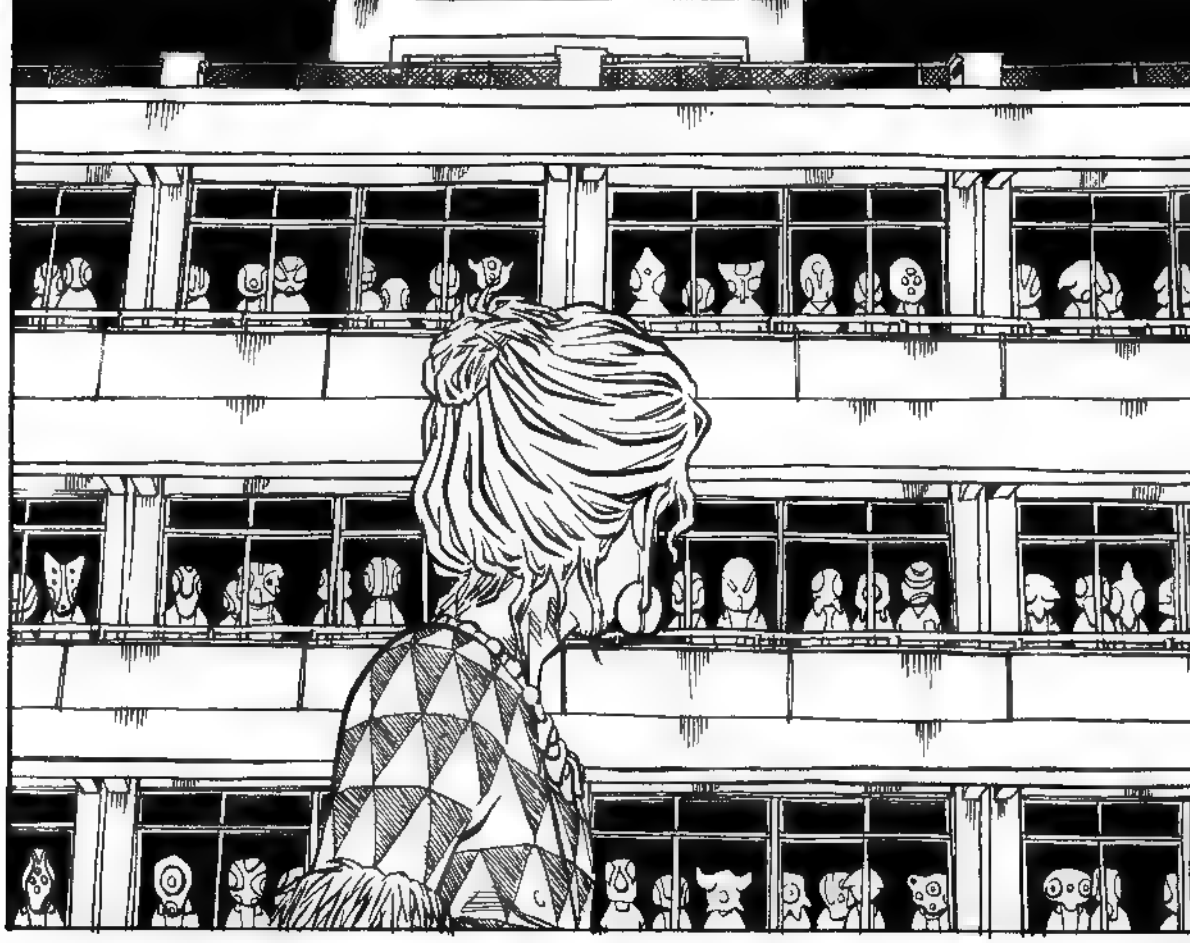
SOIL
Block 2-7 [End]

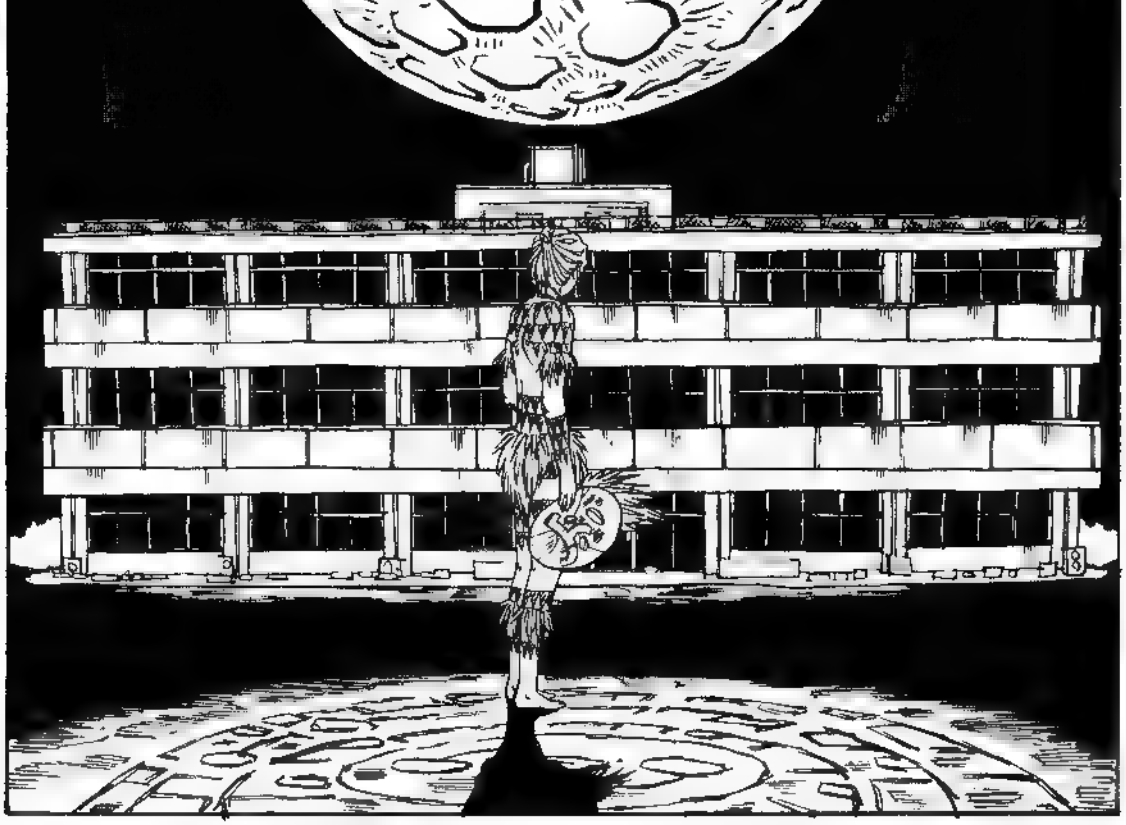
SOIL
Block 2-8 [Foreign Organism]


Hahhhhhhh!
Eh!
Hah!
BLOCK 2-8
Eh!
Hah!
Eh!
Eh!
Hah!
Hah!
Hah!
Eh!
Hah!

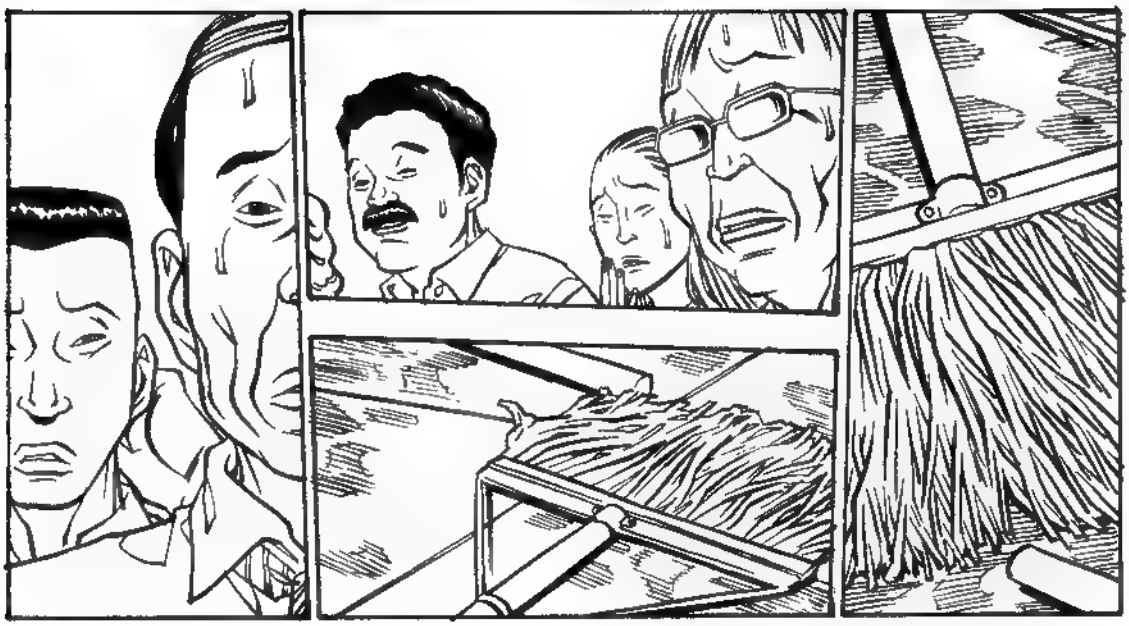
Oh impalpable things...
Oh invisible things...
Oh imperceptible things...
Oh inaudible things...
Oh strange things...
Oh impossible things...
Oh unearthly things...
Whoaaa!
Cross these bounds, and--
SHRINK!

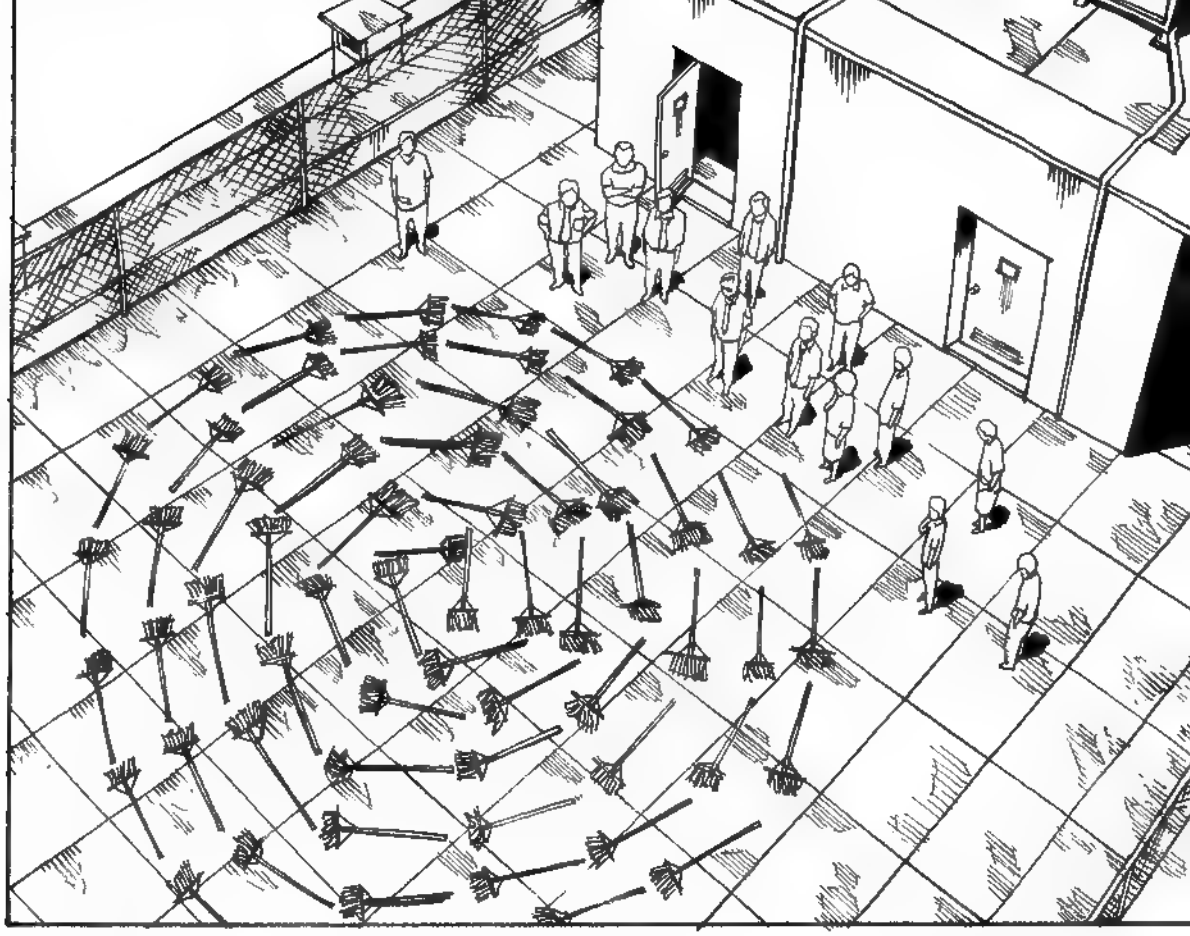

It must be because I'm doing a lot of guess-work here...
But all I'm getting out of it is this really stupid feeling in my stomach...
I'm pretty sure this is how the Jomon people did their incantations...
I used too much magnesium.
Wow, that was scary.
Hmm?

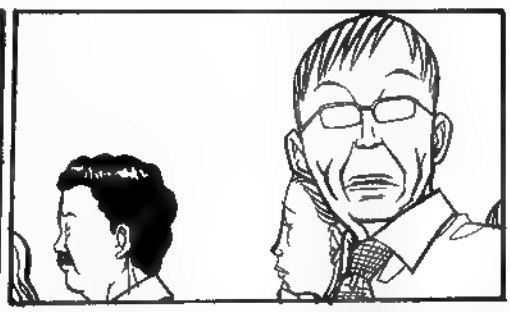


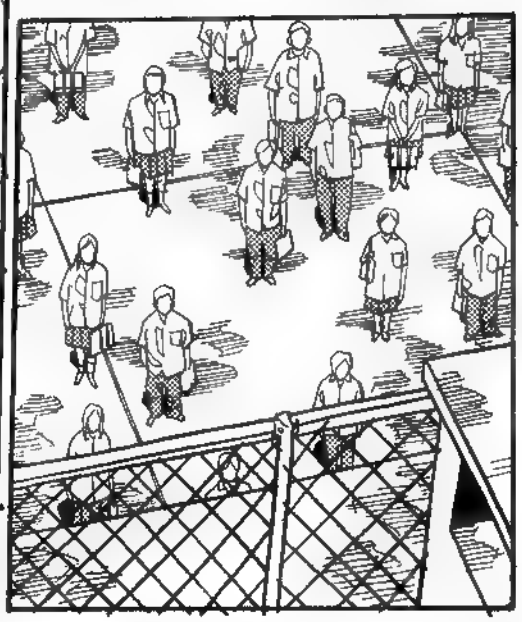


[Foreign Organism]





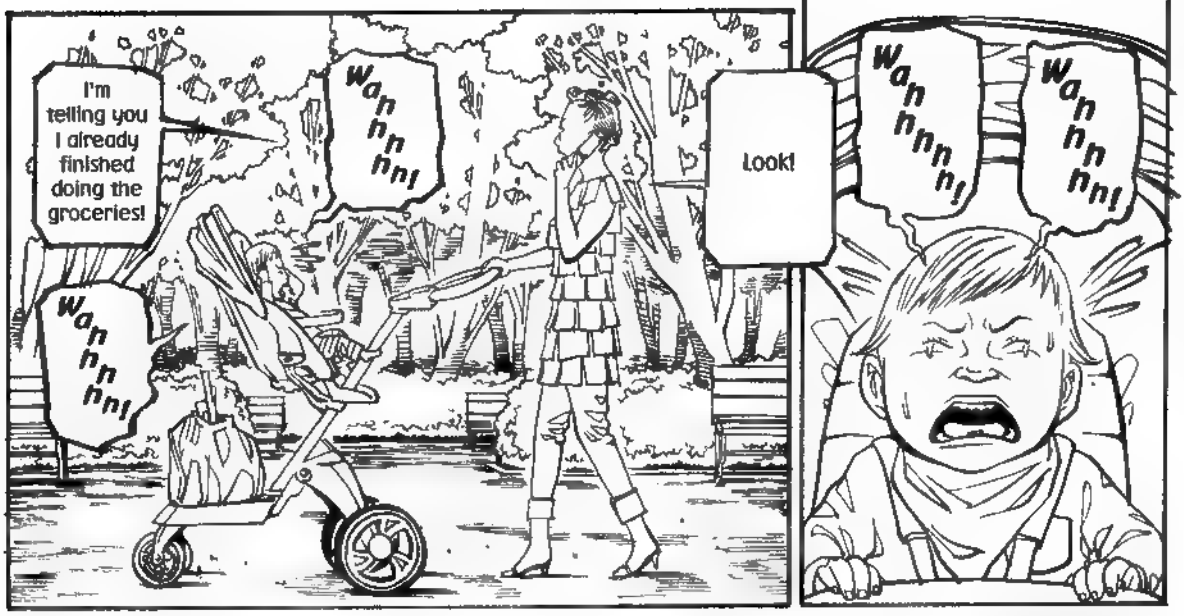


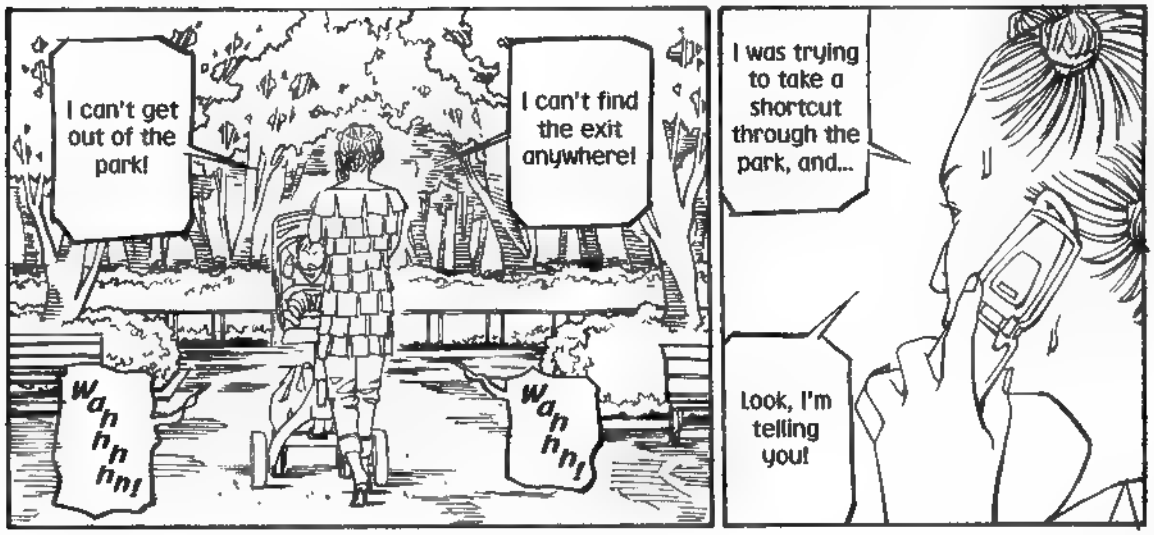


There's one on each bulletin board in the town...
Is it gum...?
What is that...?
It wouldn't feel this strange if we knew.
KRRK
KRRK
Why would they do something like this?
Where's the next bulletin board?
I think the closest one is by the traffic light on 4th street...
Now this is really going to make me lose my mind.
I'm already about to faint from the heat...
...

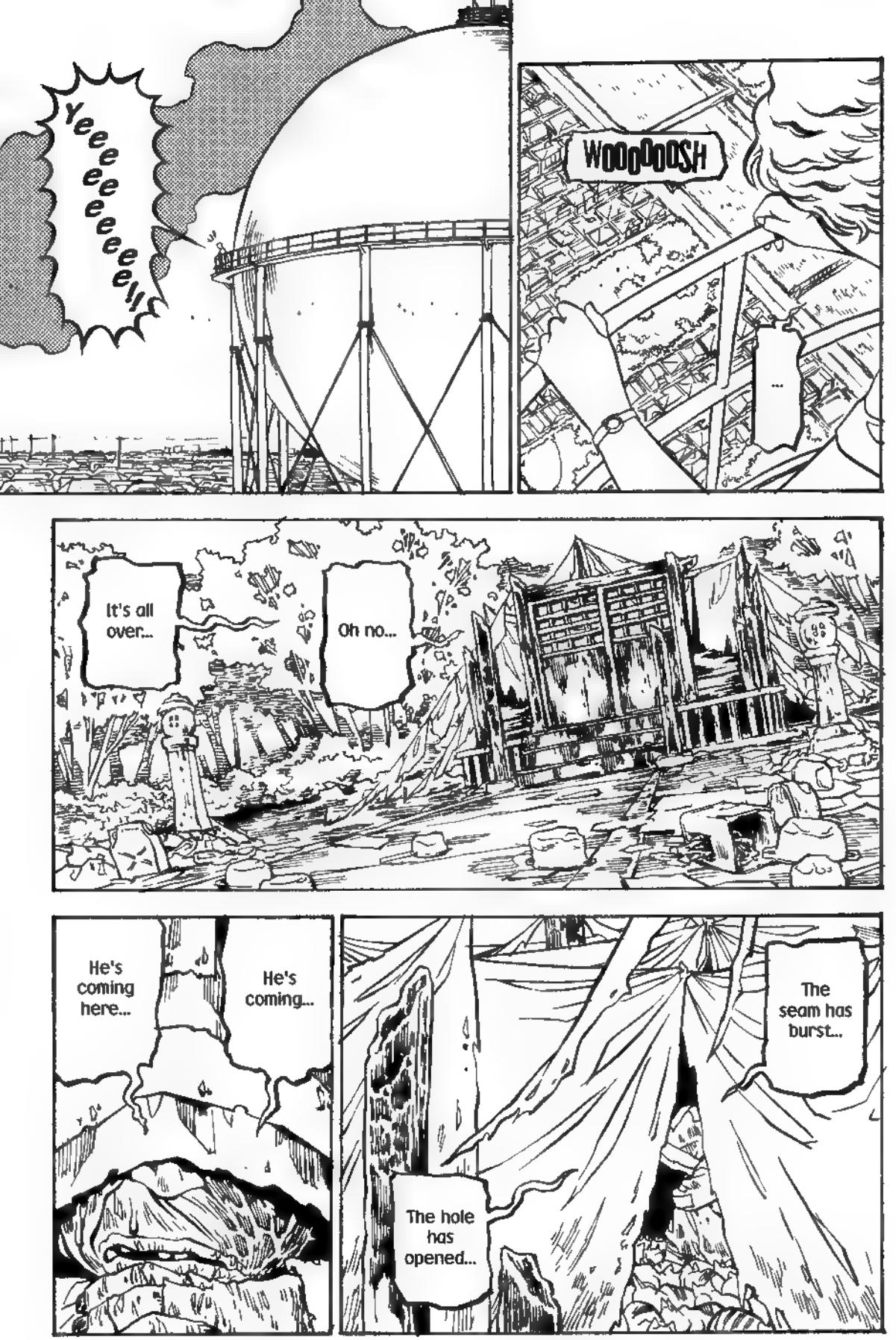
RSHH
WOOOSH
My my my my my my!
RSHH
Oh...
GLIT
RSSTL
Ahhhh...
GLIIIITTT

Annnnnnn!!
GLIIITT
Aiiieeeeeee!!
Eeeek!
GLOW
Kyaaaannn!!

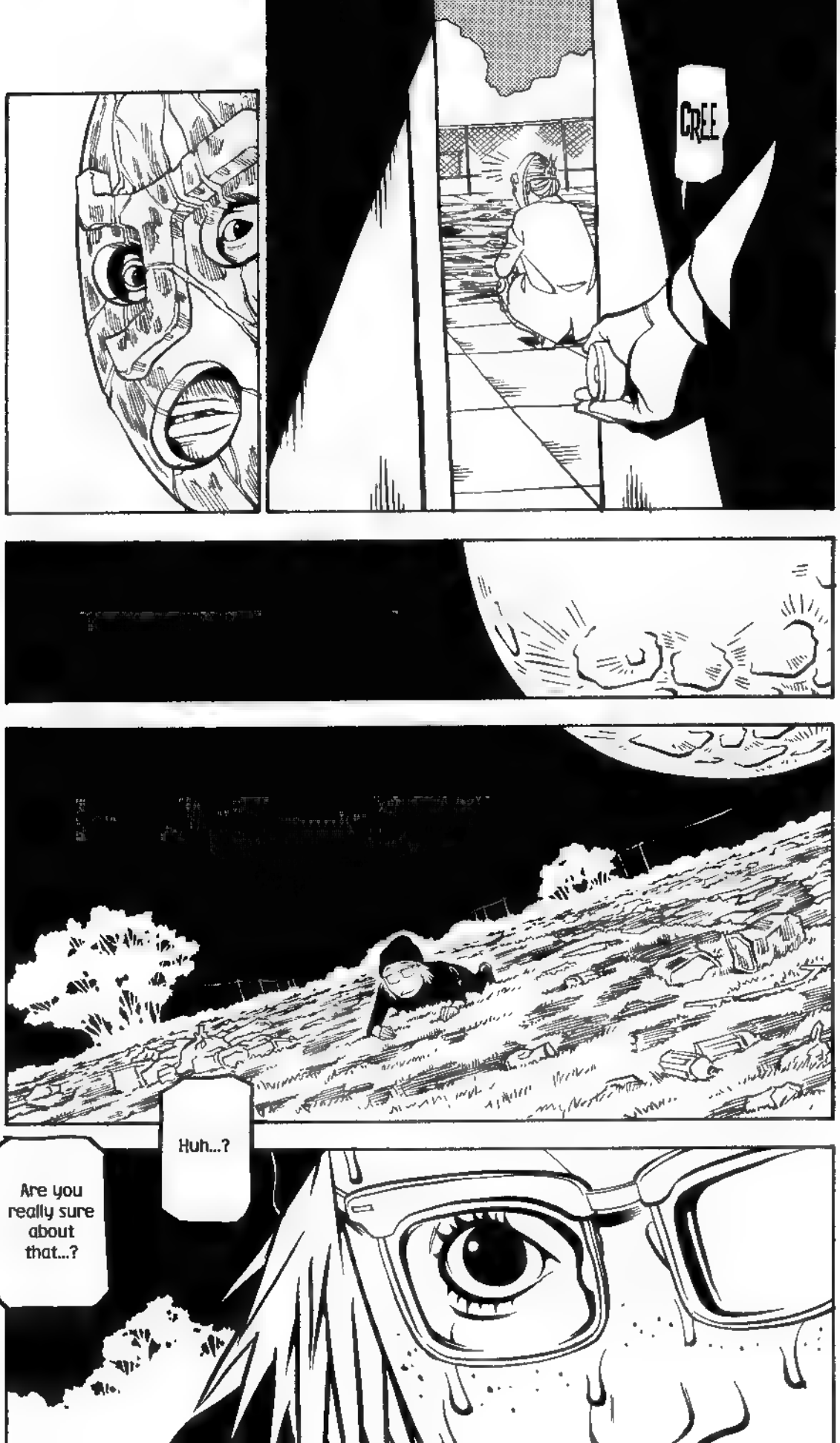

I'm telling you I already finished doing the groceries!
Wannnnn!
Wannnnn!
Look!
Wannnnn!
Wannnnn!


I can't get out of the park!
I can't find the exit anywhere!
Wannnnn!
Wannnn!
I was trying to take a shortcut through the park, and...
Look, I'm telling you!

GRP
?!
Oh dear, just when I'm in a hurry...
KRAK

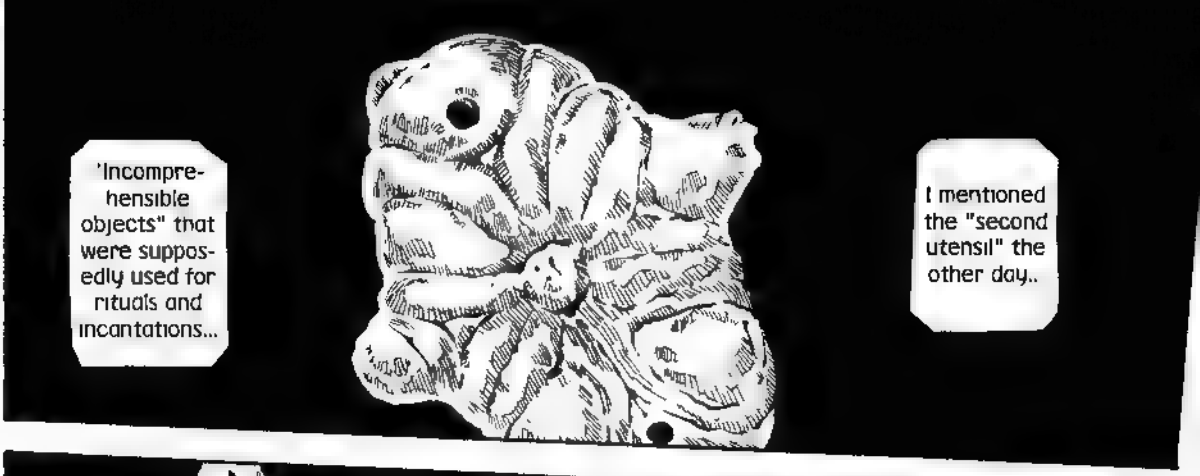

Yeee

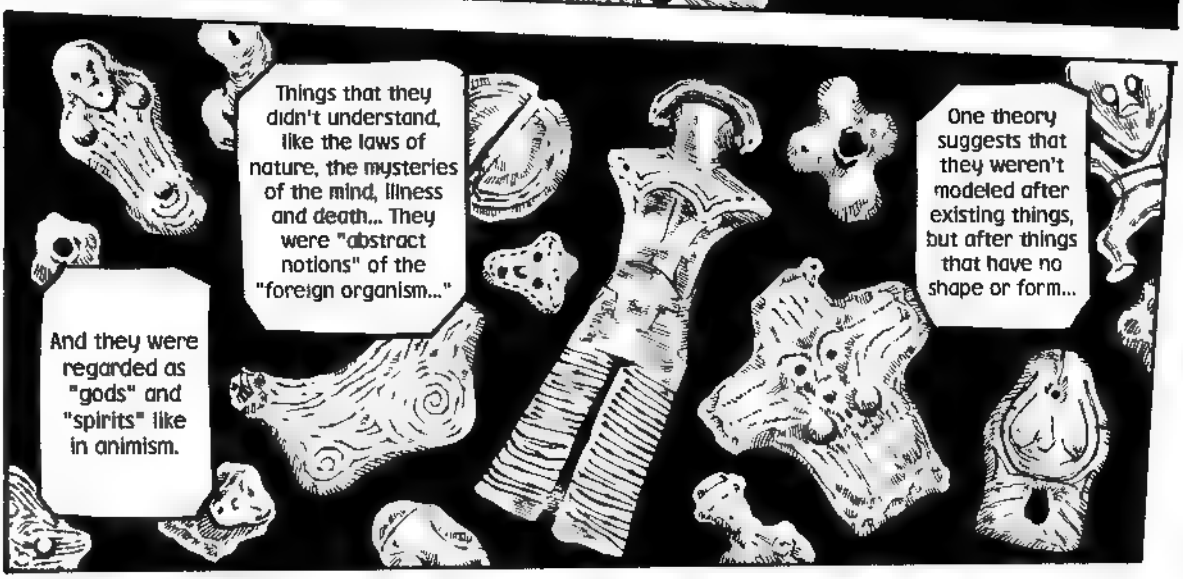
FLAP FLAP
HUH?
FLAP FLAP FLAP
THE
...


CREE
Huh...?
Are you really sure about that...?

Yes, I checked my watch immediately...
I-I-it really did happen in an instant...
...something you mentioned the other day...
I-I just happened to remember...
Huh?
...I-I-I don't believe in these supernatural sorts of things, but...
B-b-being a police officer...
So why are you telling me?
B-b-but I just can't wrap my head around what happened to me back there...
O-o-of course, I believe that the Suzushiro case can and will be solved...
...
"M-mysteries that were never meant to be solved..."
"P-pure mysteries...
Right...

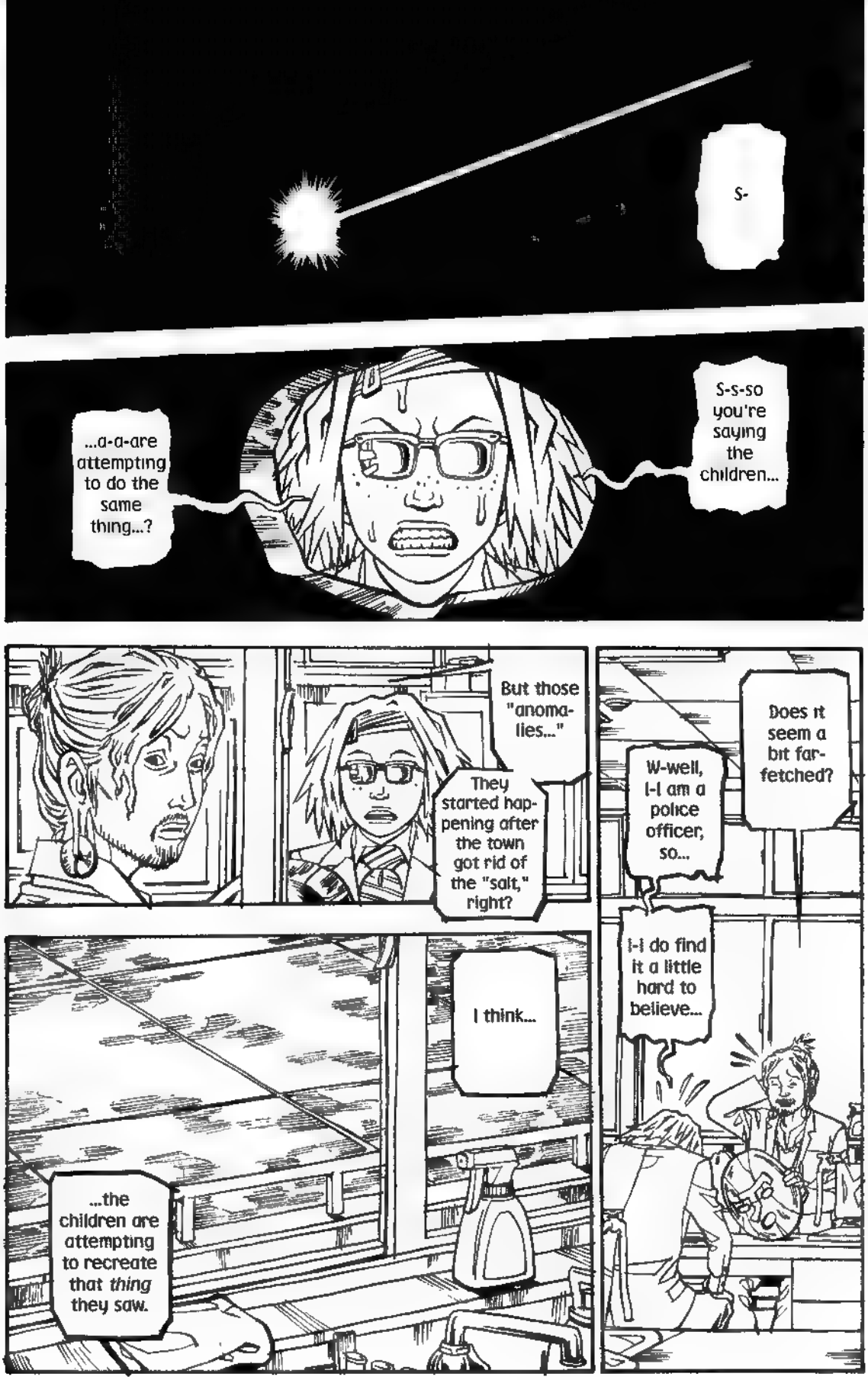
May I offer a hypothesis...?
Umm...
...are beginning to warp the topology of the town...?
What if the "anomalies" that the children are creating each day...
...
What?


"Incomprehensible objects" that were supposedly used for rituals and incantations...
I mentioned the "second utensil" the other day..


Things that they didn't understand, like the laws of nature, the mysteries of the mind, illness and death... They were "abstract notions" of the "foreign organism..."
One theory suggests that they weren't modeled after existing things, but after things that have no shape or form...
And they were regarded as "gods" and "spirits" like in animism.

...the boundary between the sacred and the profane... Their world and ours... Was much fainter than it is today.
They say that during the Jomon Era...
And the people saw the worlds as one and the same...

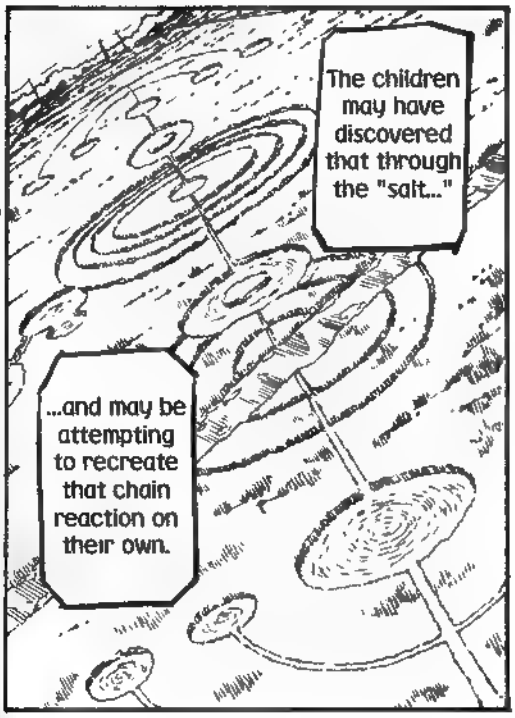
They donned masks modeled after the spirits, performed incanta-tions...
...and attempted to commu-nicate with the spirits through effigies.
By becoming "foreign organisms" themselves...
...they created "foreign organisms," and destroyed the boundary between us and them.
They attempted to call "foreign organisms" into the real world.


S-
S-s-so you're saying the children...
...a-a-are attempting to do the same thing...?
But those "anomalies..."
They started happening after the town got rid of the "salt," right?
Does it seem a bit far-fetched?
W-well, I-I am a police officer, so...
I-I do find it a little hard to believe...
I think...
...the children are attempting to recreate that *thing* they saw.

The materialization of something incomprehensible, something so outside the code of normalcy...
...namely the appearance of a "foreign organism," warped the very framework of "everyday life."

The boundaries broke...
...and the "unusual" started to filter into the "usual."

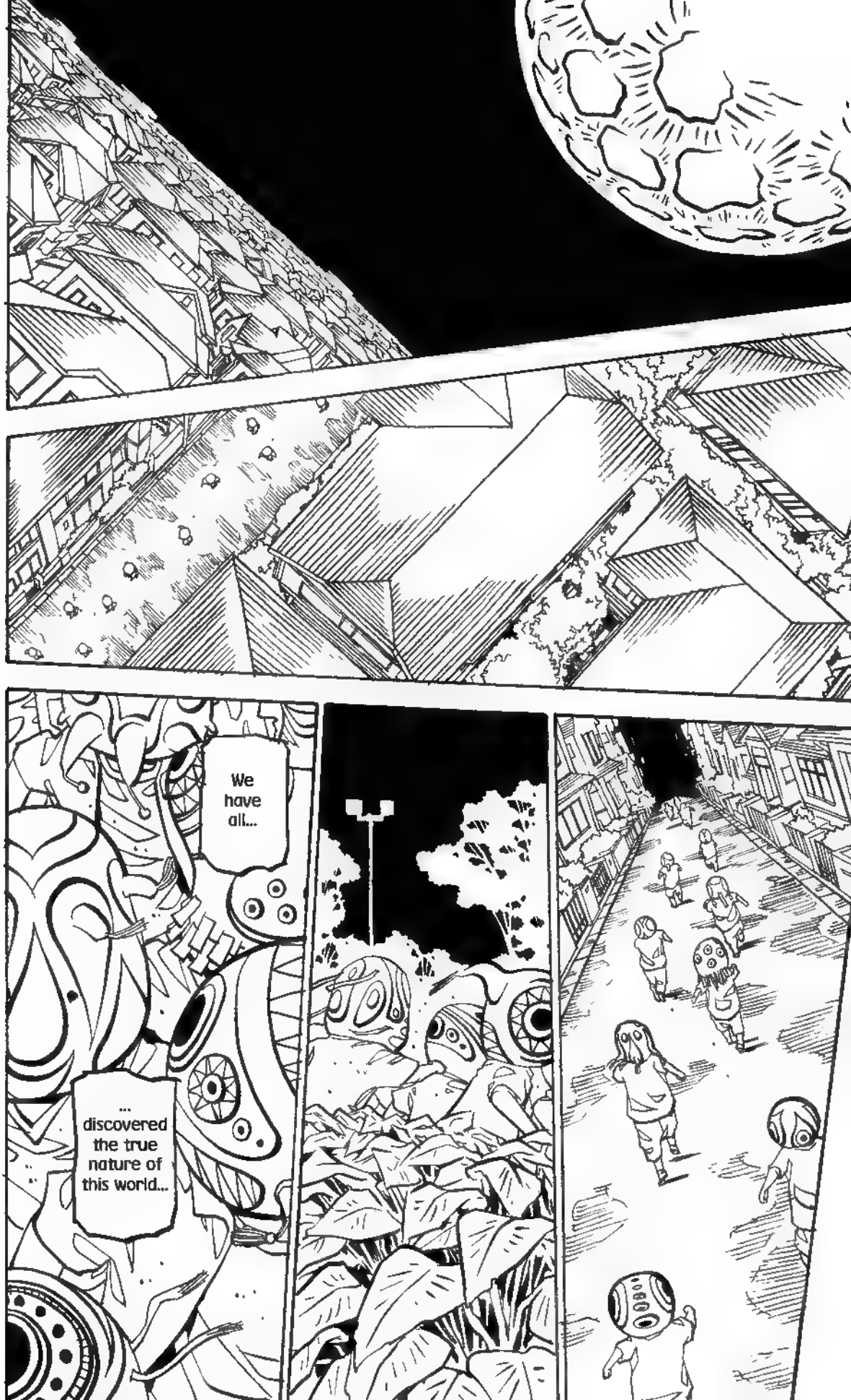
B-b-but why would they do such a thing...?
F-f-for what reason...?


The children may have discovered that through the "salt..."
...and may be attempting to recreate that chain reaction on their own.

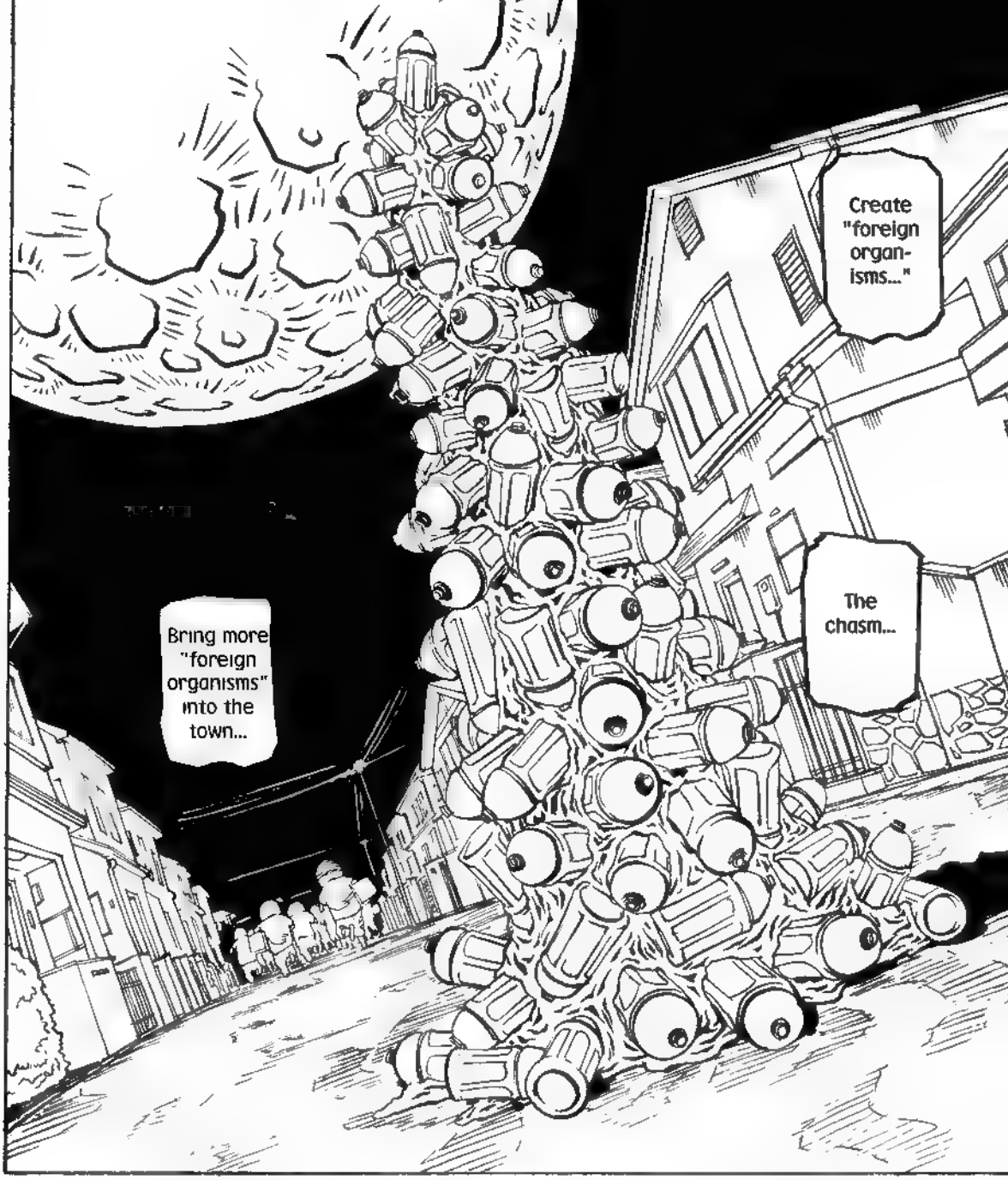
That...
I don't know...

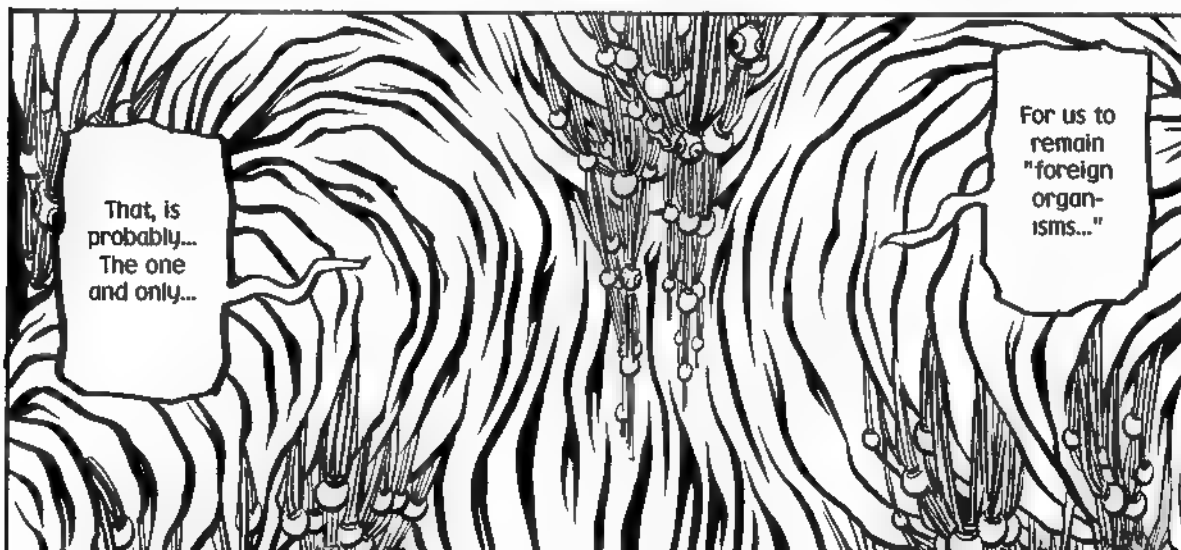
...there really isn't much we can do.
Well... I understand your concern, but...
But if this hypothesis is correct...
...it means that the boundary has already started to fall apart.
This isn't a joke!
Are you sure you weren't just seeing things?
Maybe it was the heat...?
Either way, when it comes to the pranks...
...the only way is to have the parents talk to the children, and...
I'm not sure we can make that connection...
The town's gone crazy because all these strange things have been happening!
It must be because of those bizarre pranks!

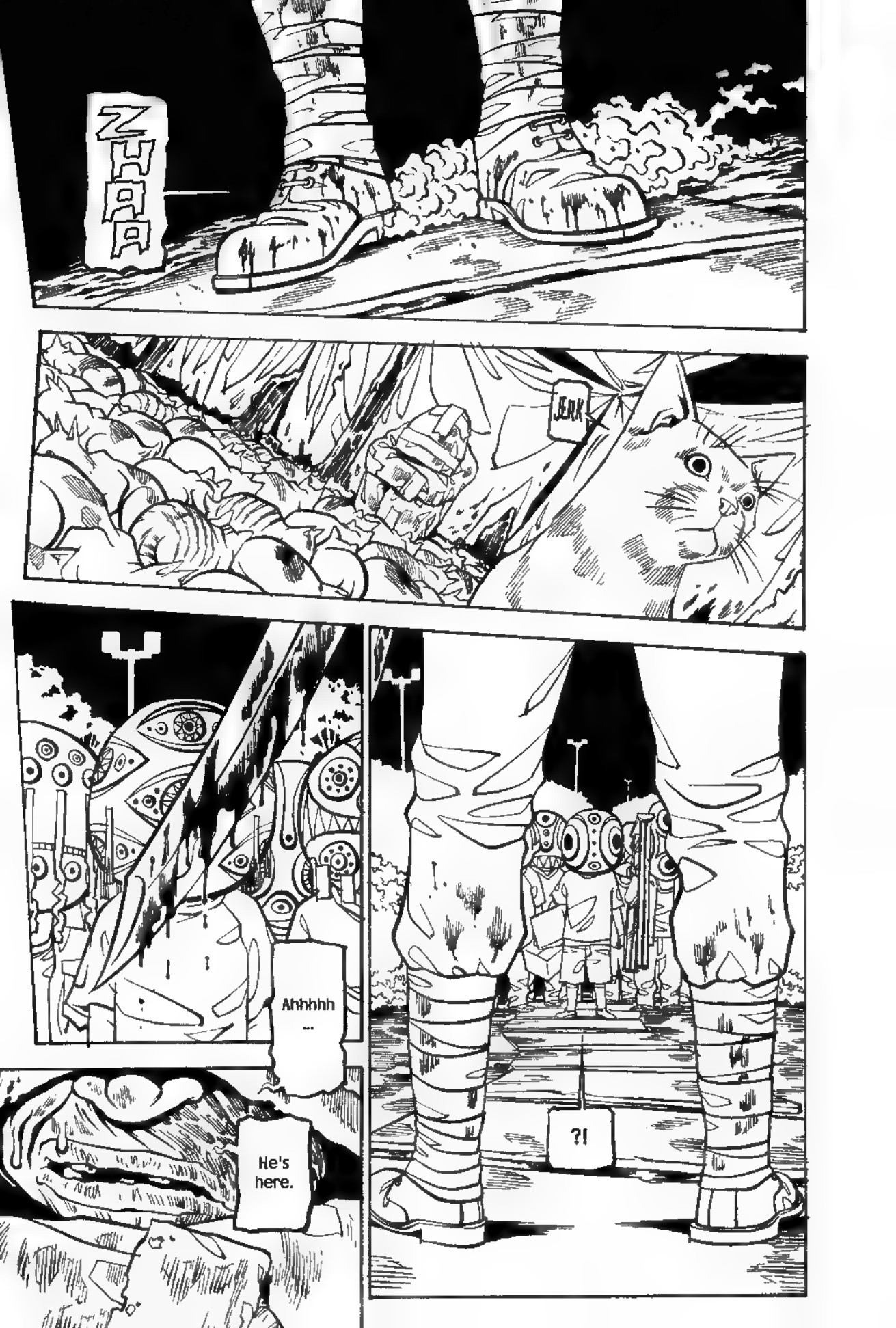
If I ruin things now...
And he's finally gone back to school...
Oh yes.
Oh, not mine either!
But my child would never do such a thing!
Mine either!
Oh yes... It's been hard talking to them...
...when they found out what we'd been doing to the Suzushiros.
All the children were hurt...
How should we know what the children are thinking...?
And besides...
We've got absolutely no...
...


We have all...
... discovered the true nature of this world...

The "foreign organism" taught us...
The "salt..."
And to be hurt...
To be tainted...
...that we are born as "foreign organisms."
We shall destroy this balance...
But we shall reject this world...
With despair, we become one with this world...


Create "foreign organ-isms..."
The chasm...
Bring more "foreign organisms" into the town...

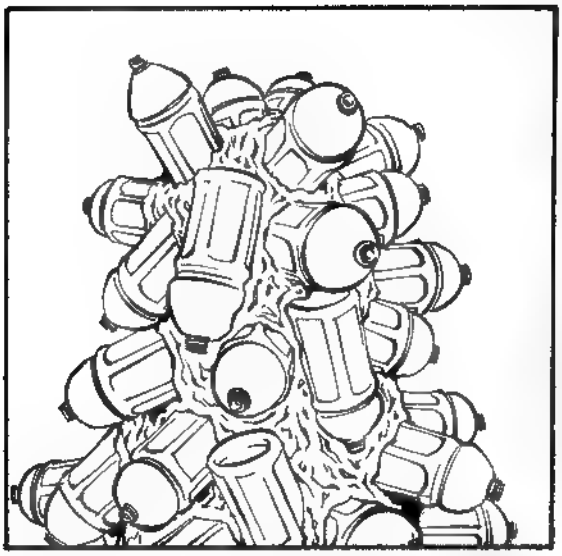

For us to remain "foreign organ-isms..."
That, is probably... The one and only...


ZHAA
JERK
Ahhhhh ...
?!
He's here.

Annnnnnnnn!!
Wannnnnnnn!!

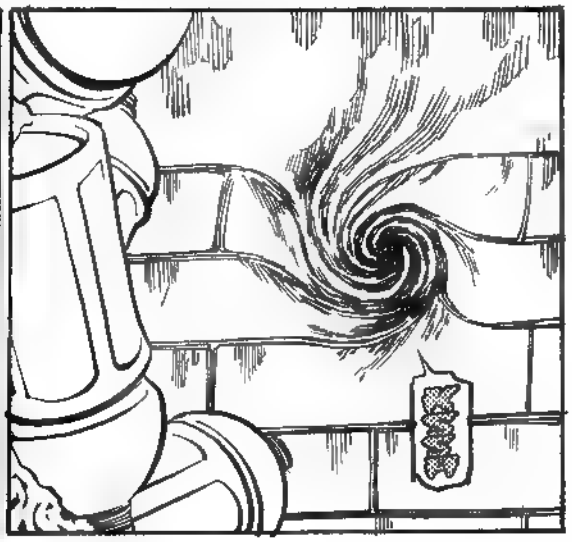
SOIL
Block 2-8 [End]

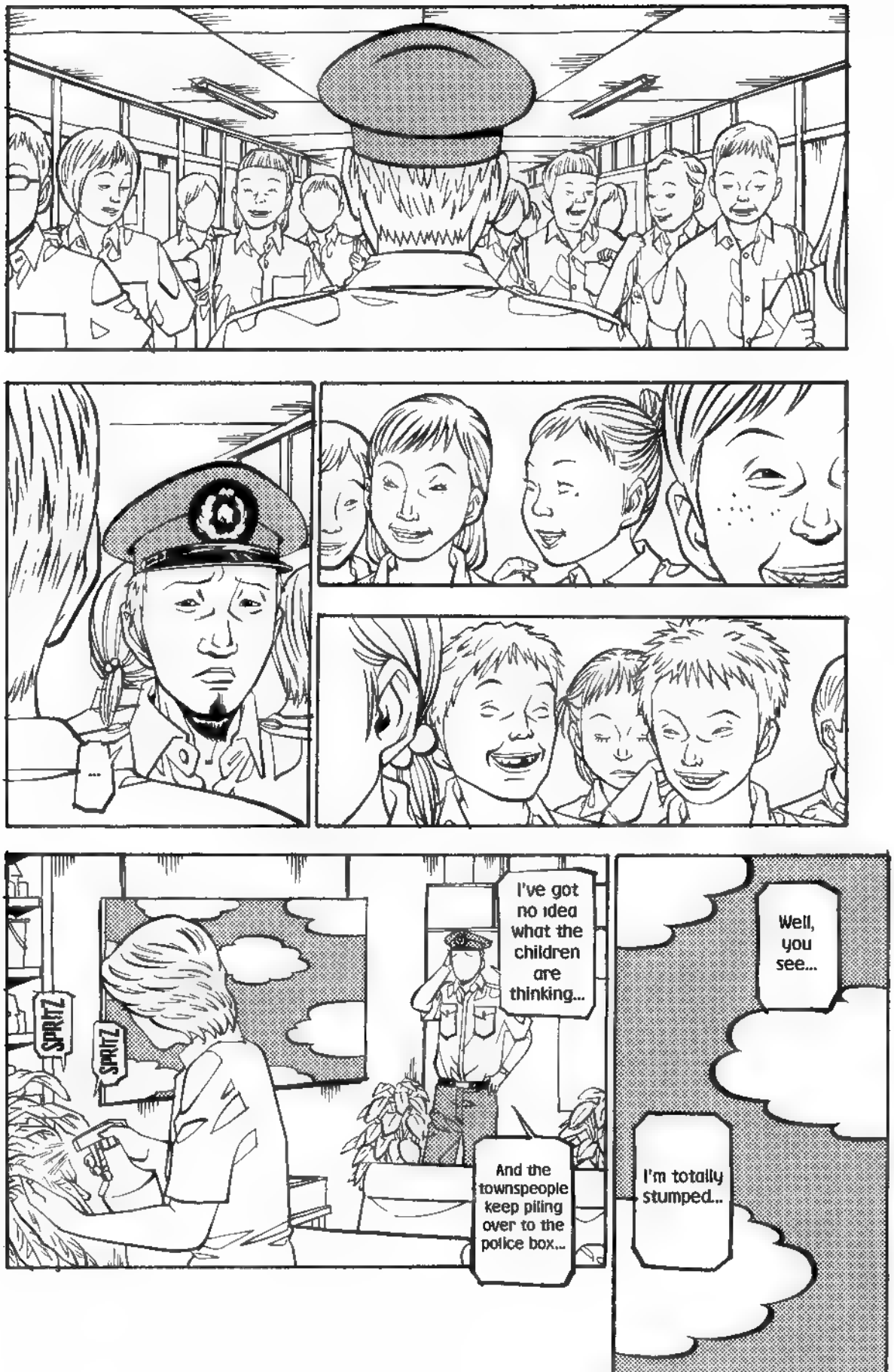
SOIL
Block 2-9 [Miss Sayuri]



BLOCK 2-9

[Miss Sayuri]

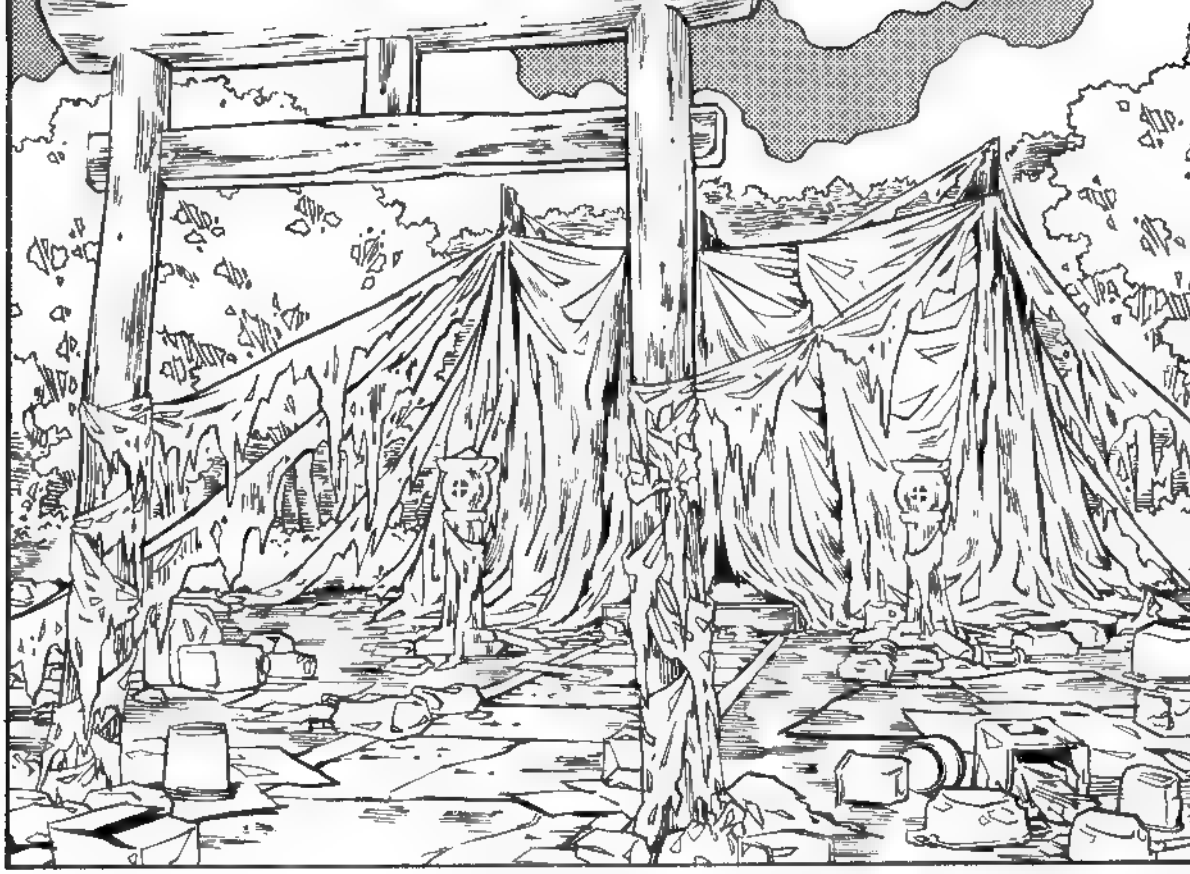



...
I've got no idea what the children are thinking...
And the townspeople keep piling over to the police box...
SPRITZ
SPRITZ
Well, you see...
I'm totally stumped...

It could be the children's pranks.
Huh?
So I wanted to find out what you think is going on, Ms. Kosaka.
SPRITZ
SPRITZ
SPRITZ
To be honest, I find all these supernatural occurrences ...
...a bit hard to believe, you know.
You too, Ms. Kosaka?
Oh please ...
A dog's corpse...
When people see these "foreign organisms" within the framework of their everyday lives...
Malicious graffiti...
Garbage dumps... Homeless people...
...they're struck with an indescribable sense of anxiety.

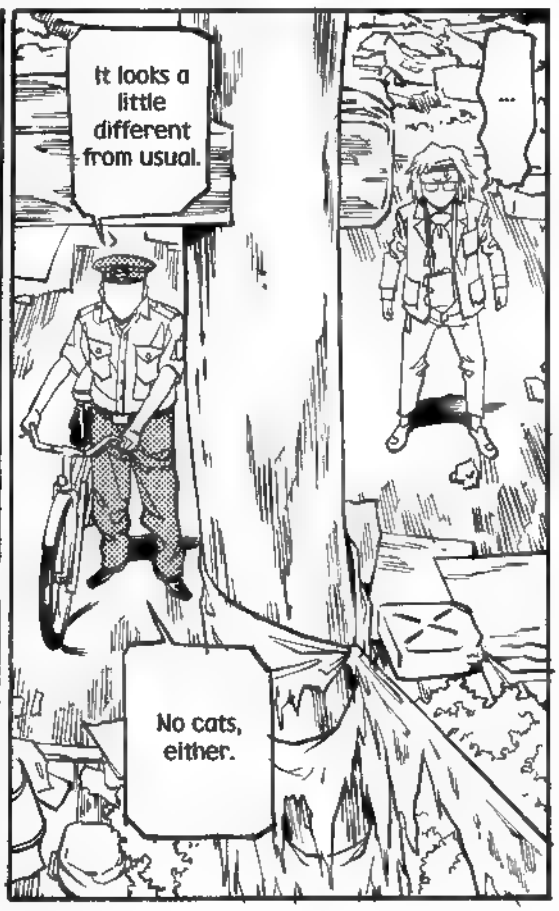
I see...
...shaking the very foundations of the common practices they'd lived by.
As if their normal, peaceful lives are being infected by some unknown illness...
The townspeople have seen it all with their very own eyes...
...and the "foreign organisms" the children have created to take its place...
The sudden appearance of the "salt mountain..."
It may be that these occurrences have struck fear into their minds...
...and the entire town is now entering a state of group hypnosis.

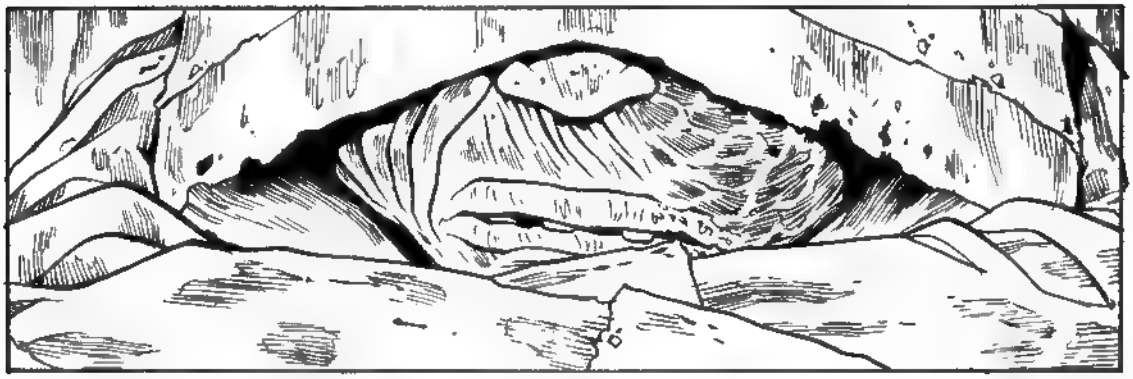
I-I see... So that's what was happening in the town...
Or something like that...
Group hypnosis ...?
G-
...
They're all having nervous breakdowns.
Basically, they're confused because weird stuff is happening.
Huh?
How did we just walk past it?
It should be around here somewhere...
That's strange ...



FLAFF
FLAFF
Miss Sayuri? You in here?
We're coming in.

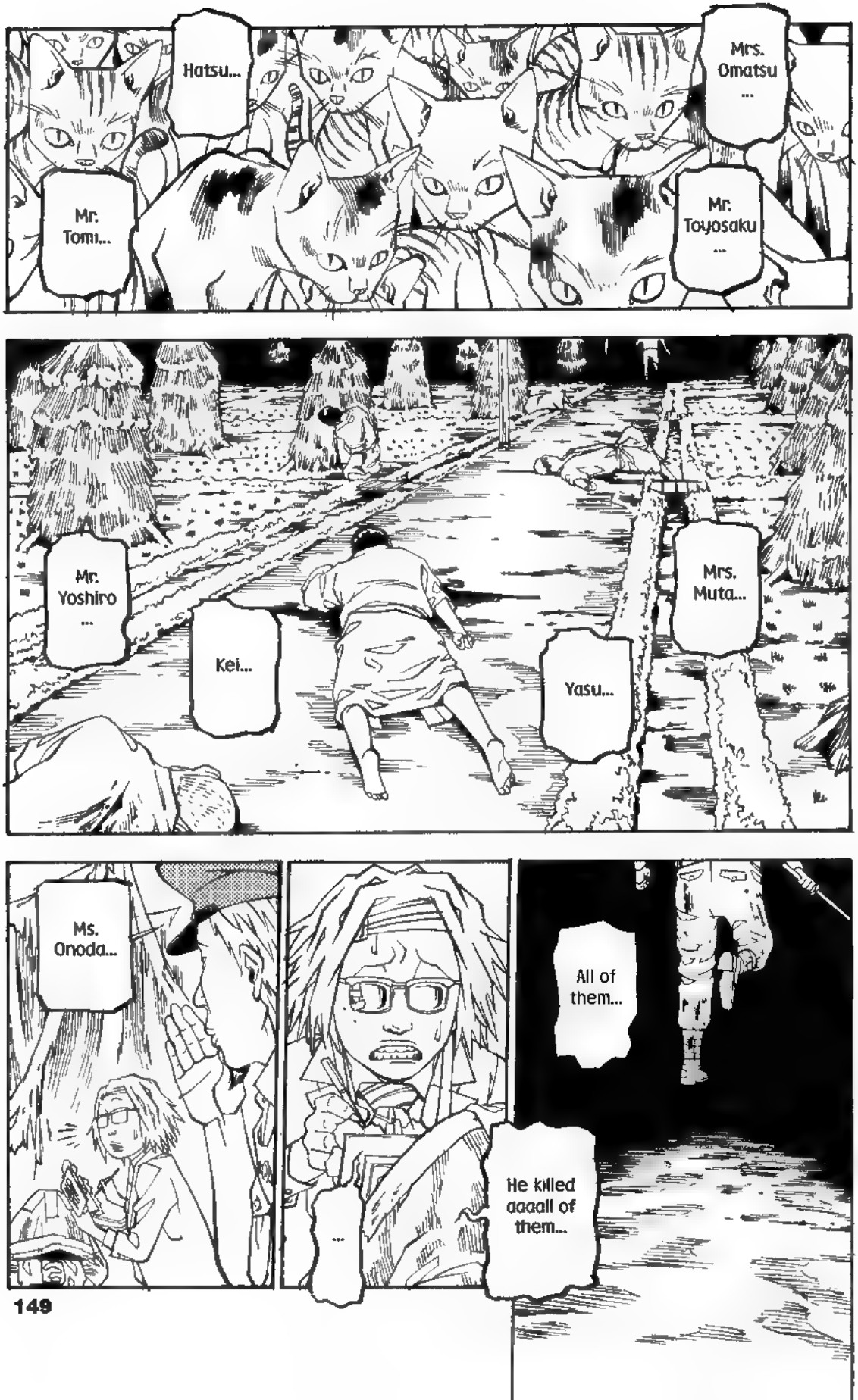
FLAFF

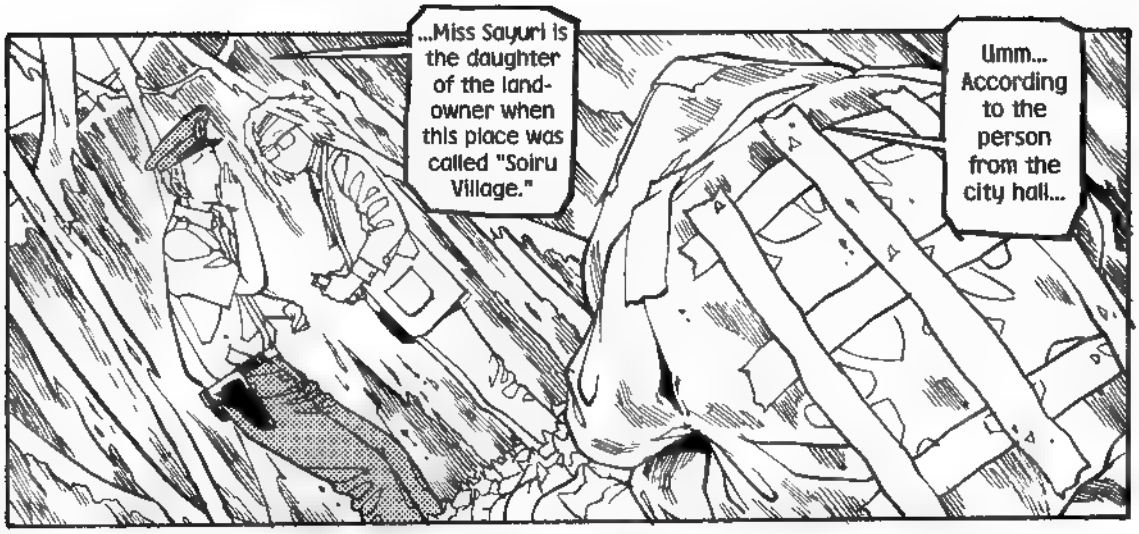

It looks a little different from usual.
...
No cats, either.

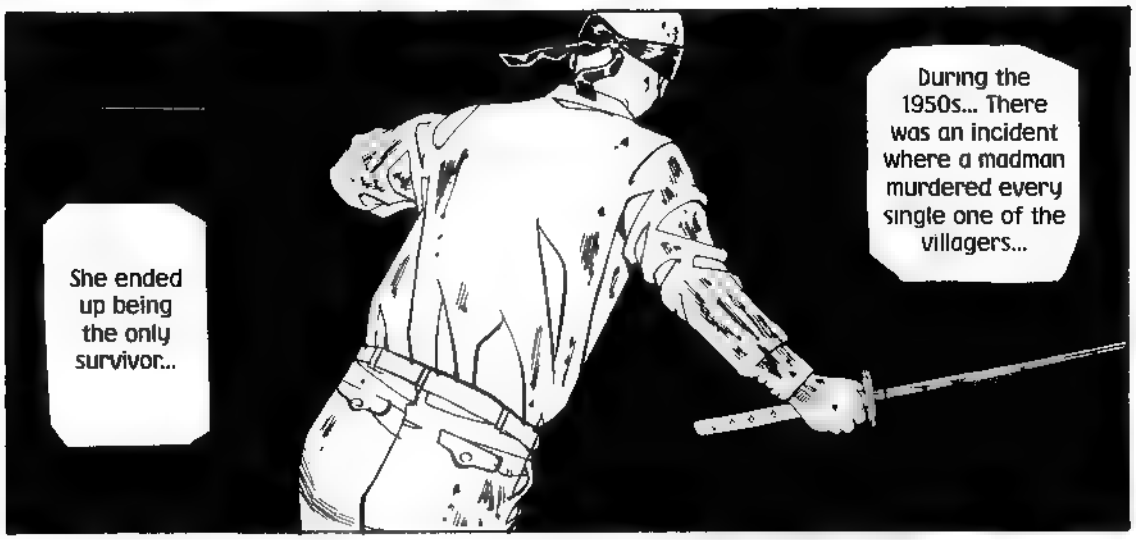


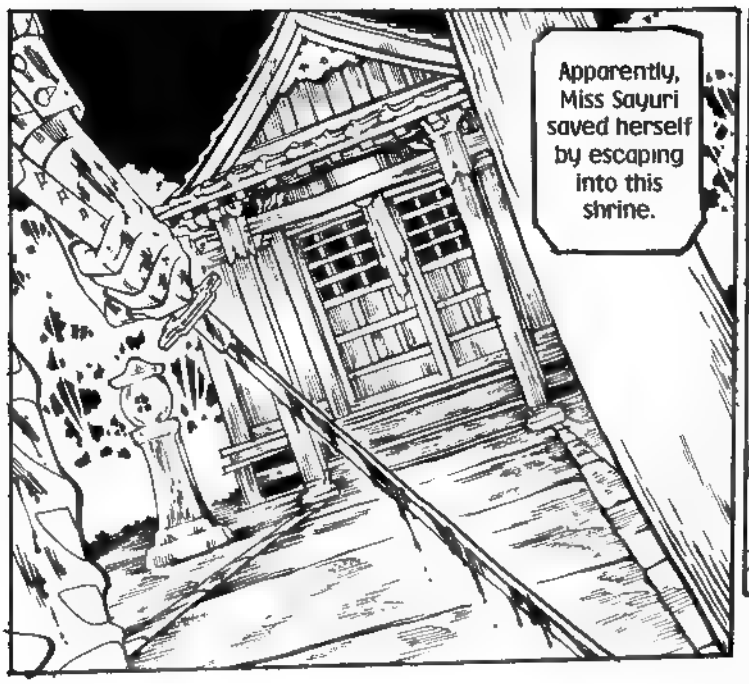
You haven't come to water the flowers, either.
...
GLANCE
What's wrong? Are you not feeling well?
...

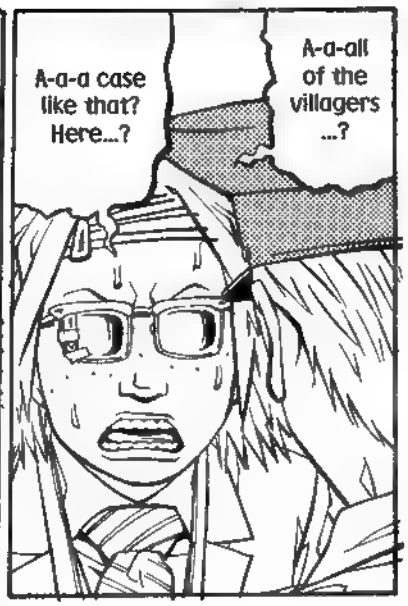
I-I've decided to look back at the day it all started...
...a-a-and ask you about the night of the blackout...
meowww
O-ohh ...
Umm ...
meowww
This is Ms. Onoda from Kamikawa Police Station.
She wants to ask you something about the Suzushiros.
Huh?
It's over...
It's all over now...
...
Th-that man...?
Mr. Kozo...
Kiku...
Everyone was so nice to him...
He's going to find Sayuri...
That man is here...


Hatsu...
Mrs. Omatsu ...
Mr. Tomi...
Mr. Toyosaku ...
Mr. Yoshiro ...
Kei...
Yasu...
Mrs. Muta...
Ms. Onoda...
...
All of them...
He killed aaaall of them...


...Miss Sayuri is the daughter of the land-owner when this place was called "Soiru Village."
Umm... According to the person from the city hall...

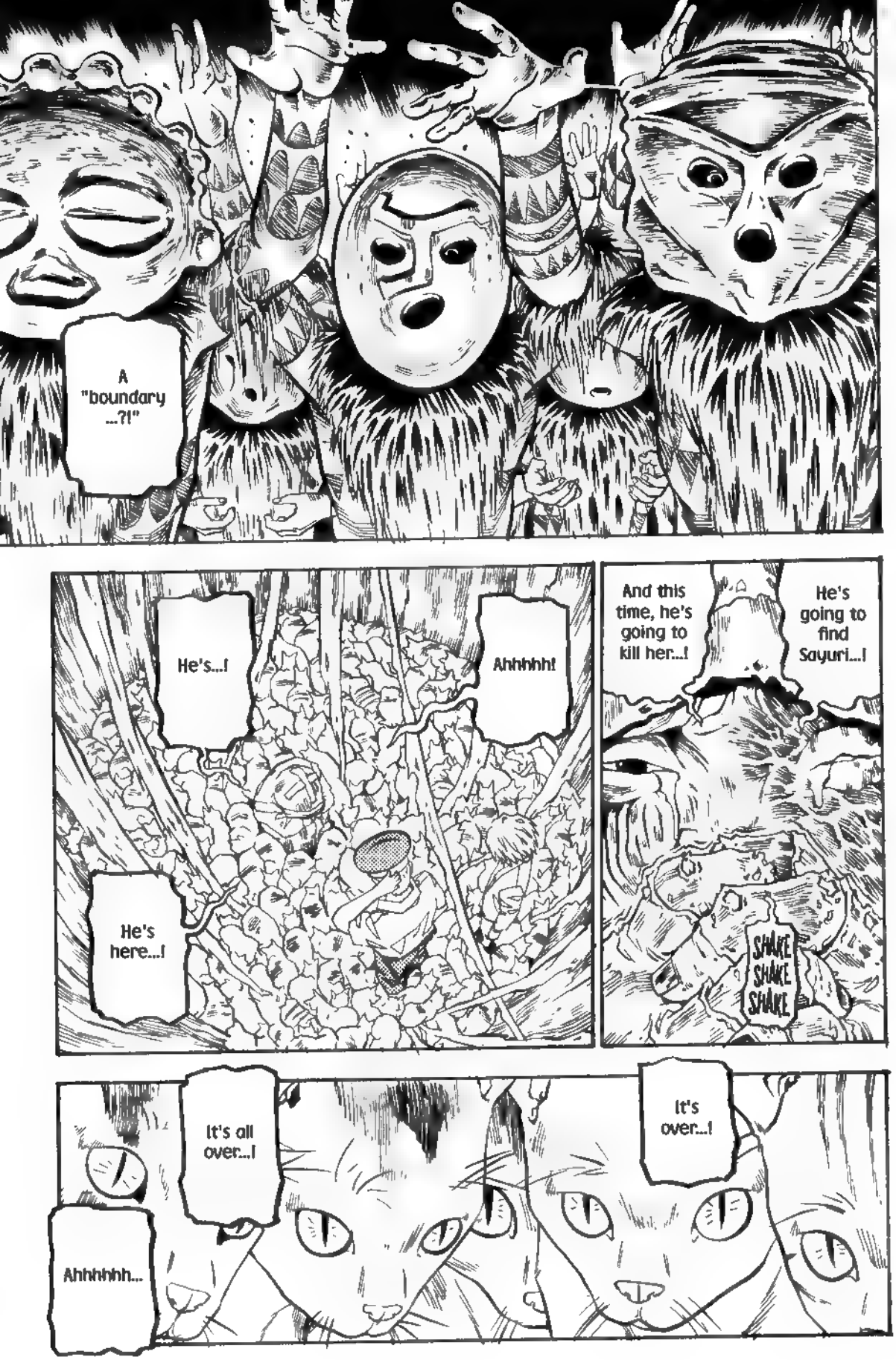

She ended up being the only survivor...
During the 1950s... There was an incident where a madman murdered every single one of the villagers...

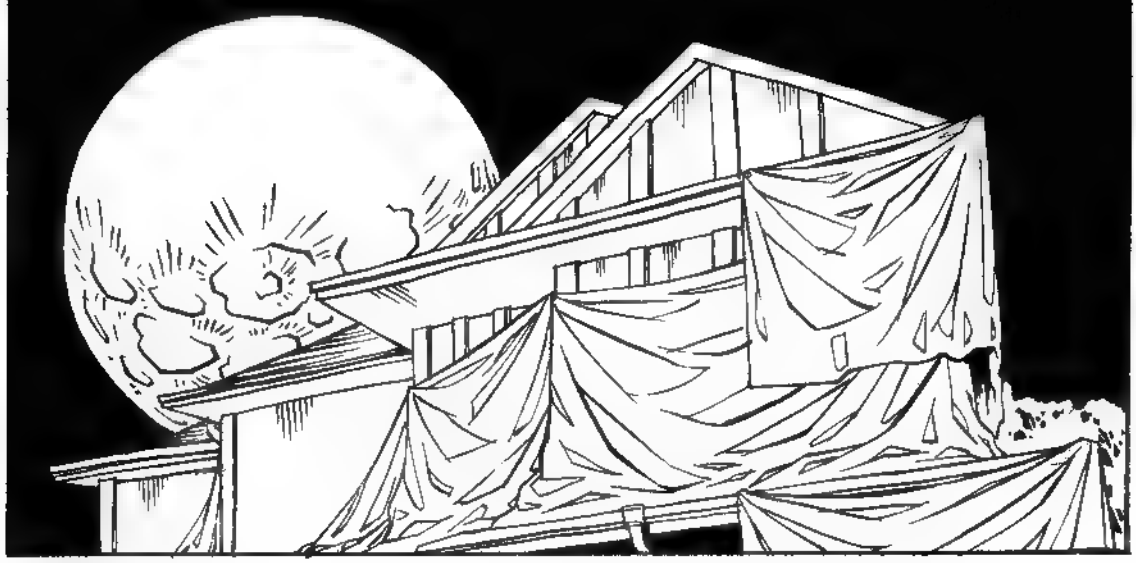

Apparently, Miss Sayuri saved herself by escaping into this shrine.

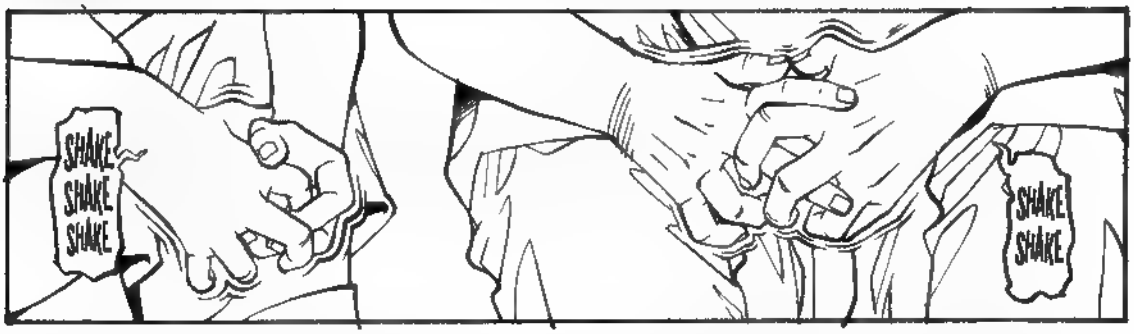

A-a-a case like that? Here...?
A-a-all of the villagers ...?

She thinks that the man is still out to get her...
...and that he won't be able to find her as long as she stays in here.
And she's tried her best to stay here ever since.
The city kept trying to put her into an orphanage, but she kept coming back...
He was arrested, of course.
I'm sure they put him to death...
Wh-what about the culprit?
He's been looking for Sayuri for a long time...
He hasn't given up...
A looong looong time...
...
I'm telling you, he's not dead...

Did you know...?
It's been so many years since it all happened.
Don't worry! There's no way he's alive!
A hole opened...
...between us and them.
A "hole...?"
"Us and them...?"
He's finally come into our world...
...
And that man...


A "boundary ...?!"
He's...!
Ahhhhh!
He's here...!
And this time, he's going to kill her...!
He's going to find Sayuri...!
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
It's all over...!
It's over...!
Ahhhhhh...

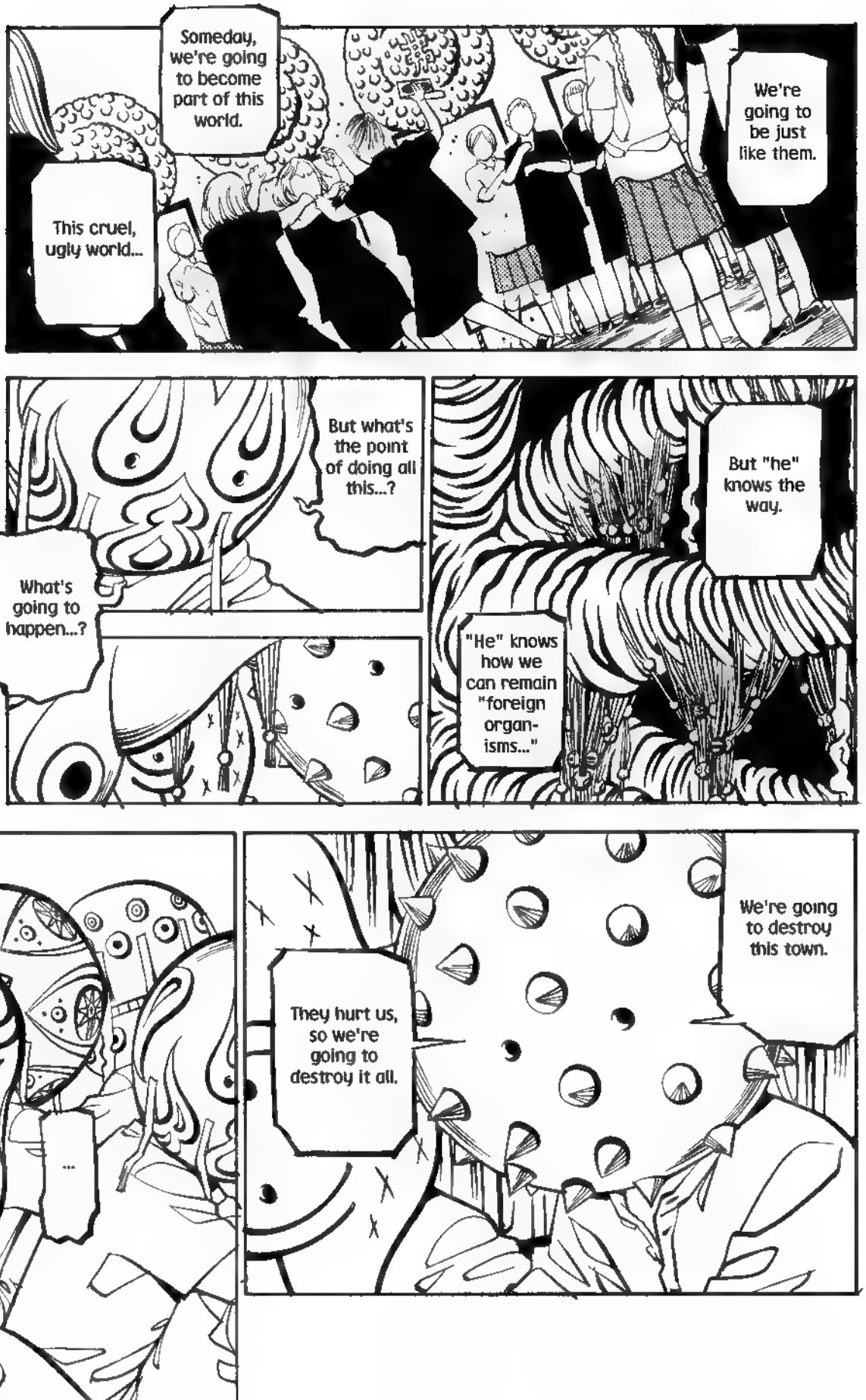


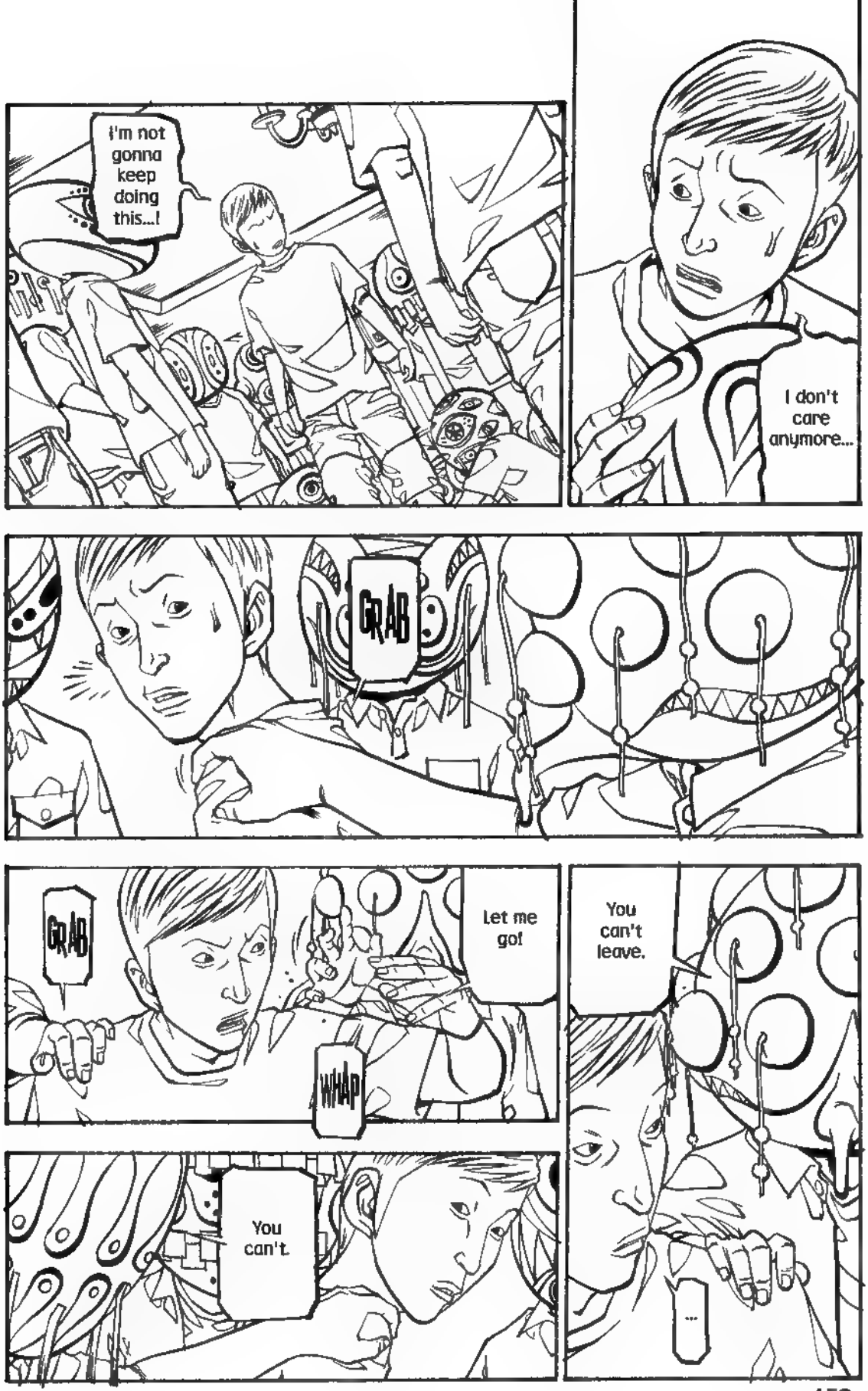

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

We're paying for what we've done...
It's our fault...

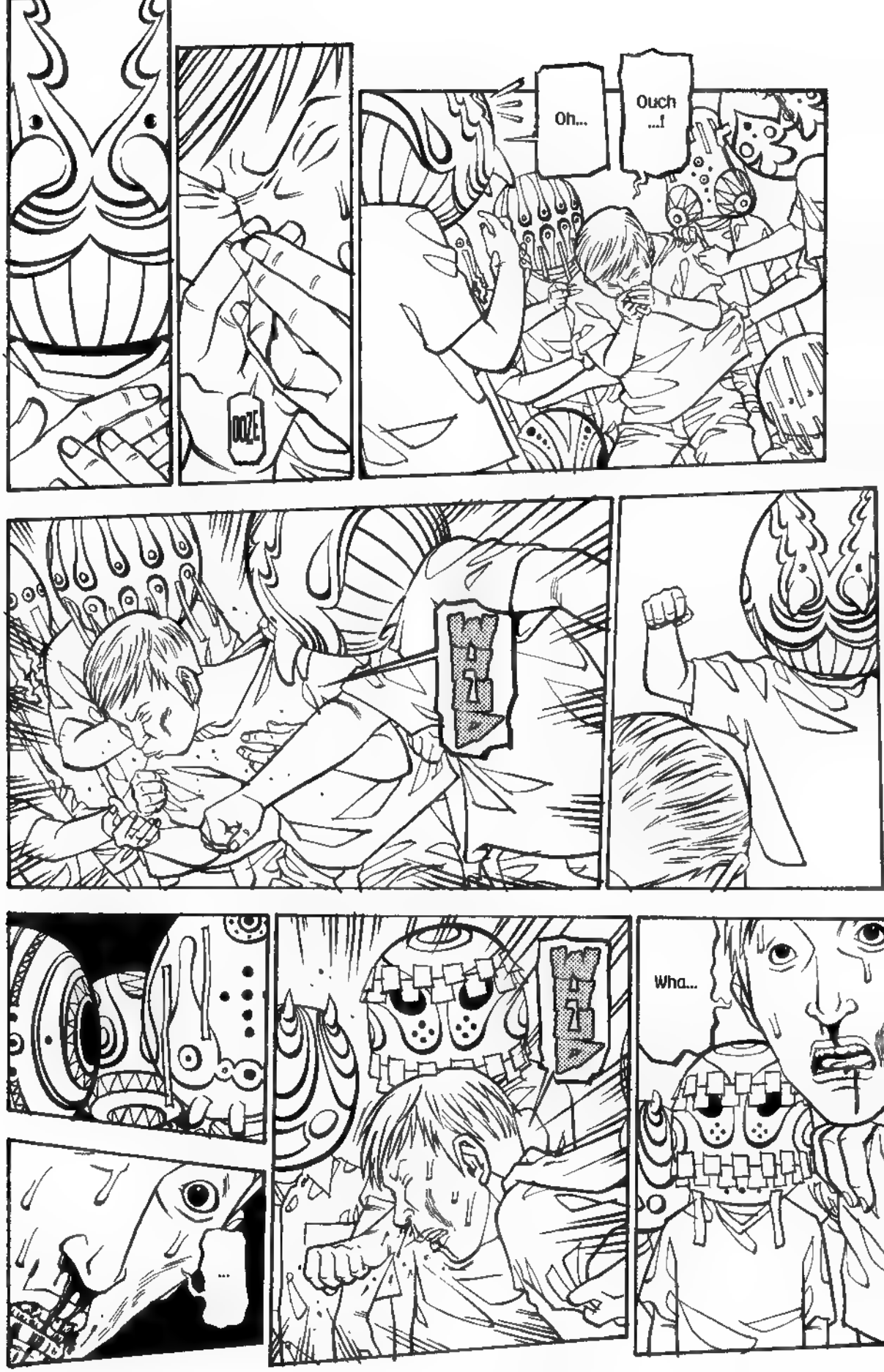
W-we let that *thing* into the town...
...anything that scary before.
I've never, ever seen...
That must've been a warning to us...
It's our fault for trying to fight the world...

What's the point of being scared now?
The chasm has already opened.
There's no going back now.
Are you going to accept this world?
You don't want to remain a "foreign organism?"
But I didn't know something like that was going to appear...
Even worse things are going to happen now...
That "salt mountain" taught us, remember?
It taught us what this town is really about.
That's the true nature of the world we live in.
Stupid
Get out
Kill
We hate you
Revolting
Germs
Die


Someday, we're going to become part of this world.
We're going to be just like them.
This cruel, ugly world...
But what's the point of doing all this...?
What's going to happen...?
But "he" knows the way.
"He" knows how we can remain "foreign organ-isms..."
...
They hurt us, so we're going to destroy it all.
We're going to destroy this town.

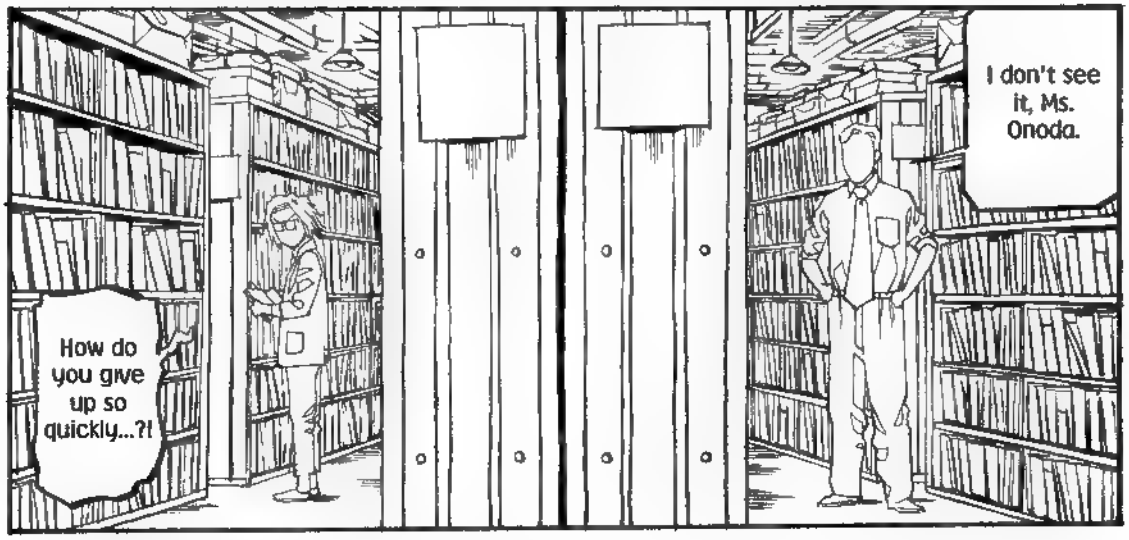

I'm not gonna keep doing this...!
I don't care anymore...
GRAB
GRAB
Let me go!
WHAP
You can't leave.
You can't.
...

We have to do this together.
Let's keep going.
This is just the beginning.
Please don't quit.
Please.
C'mon.
Let's do more.
...
We need you.
BLIP
Owl
Let go!
WHAP
Let...
Le-
RIP


Oh...
Ouch ...!
DOZE
...
Wha...

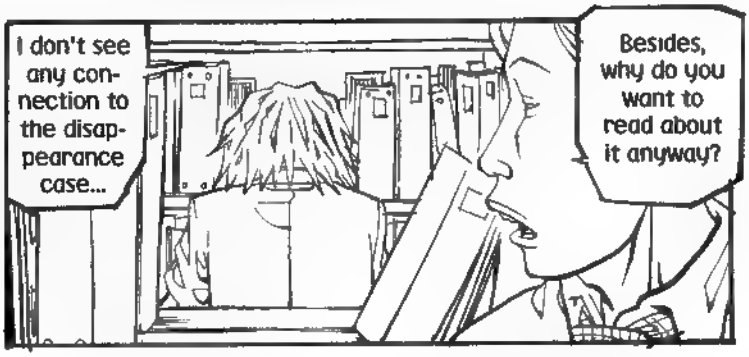
Waaaa

CLAK
KAMIKITAWA POLICE STATION


How do you give up so quickly...?!
I don't see it, Ms. Onoda.

B-b-but I feel like there's something very important to be found here...
Th-there may not be a direct connection...

I've never heard of it before.
Are you sure there was really a case like that?


I don't see any connection to the disappearance case...
Besides, why do you want to read about it anyway?

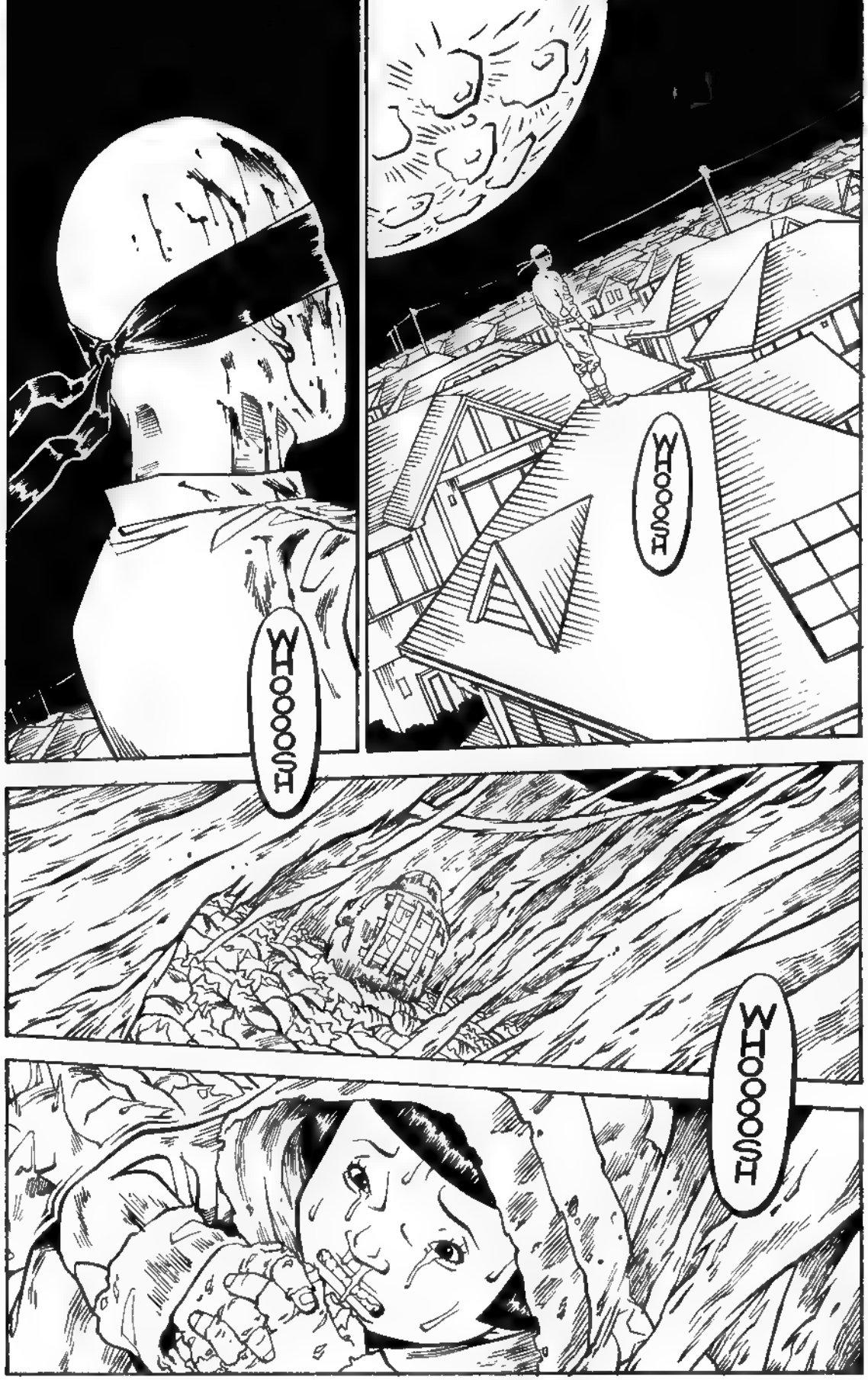
...
Yaawn
That complicated stuff doesn't suit you, Ms. Onoda.
You sure you haven't gone crazy from this wild goose chase?
NNNN
SHAKE
SHAKE
I've searched this hard, so there must be no records left...
But what's going on here...?
How can you sleep with such a pained expression on your face when you have absolutely nothing to worry about?!
NNNN...
Rrrrgh...

I-I was truly struck by thy handsome performance in the tournament!
SWOOP
G-greetings, Lady Sword-master!
Oh...
Hmm?!
It's closing time.
Hey, you guys.

I-it's an old case...
Yes...
Is there something you seek, my lady?!
HMMM
HAP
HAP
I have been entrusted with managing these records ever since my retirement!
F-from the Sports Swordfighting Club...?
Indeed!

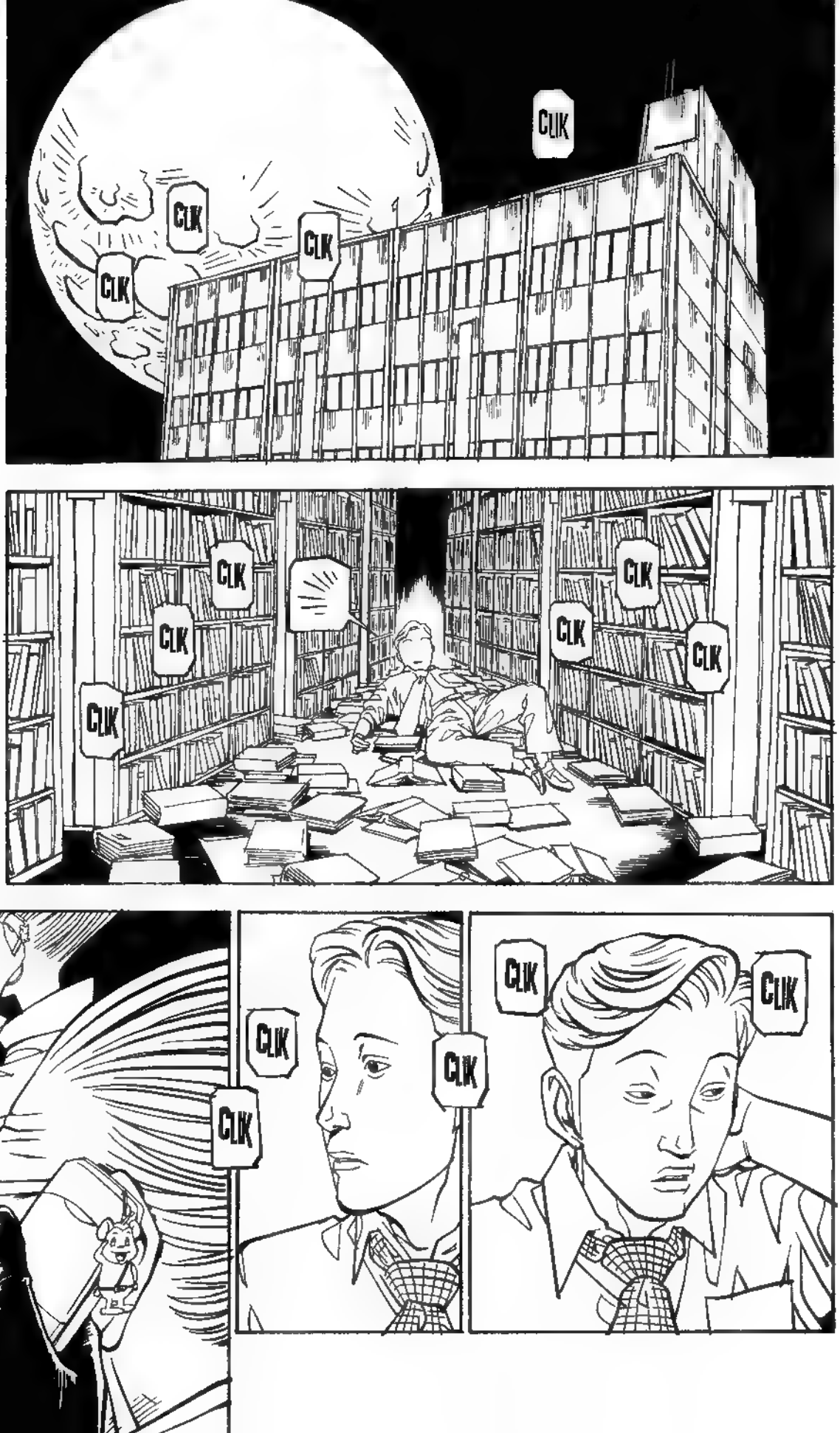
From the 1950s...
During the "Soiru Village" years...

...another detective came in looking for the same file.
Oh, you see... The other day...
Huh? What?
What is it with everyone looking for this one ancient case...
Huh?
S-
!!!
The perverted-looking one wearing a wig...
S-S-S-S-
Sergeant Yokoi...?!


WHOOOSH
WHOOOSH
WHOOOSH

SOIL
Block 2-9 [End]

SOIL
Block 2-10 [The Soiru Village Case]


CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
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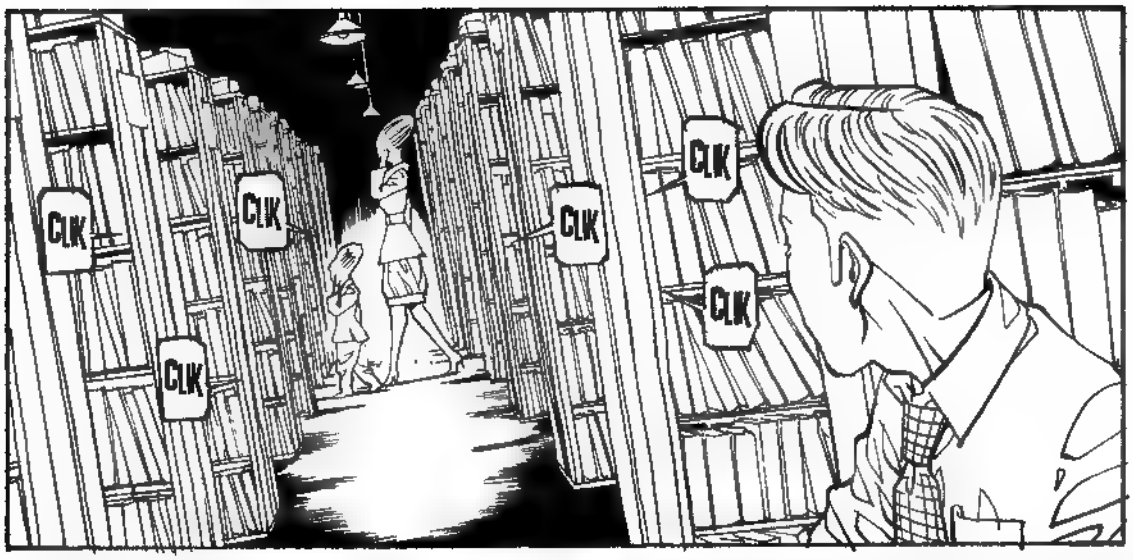
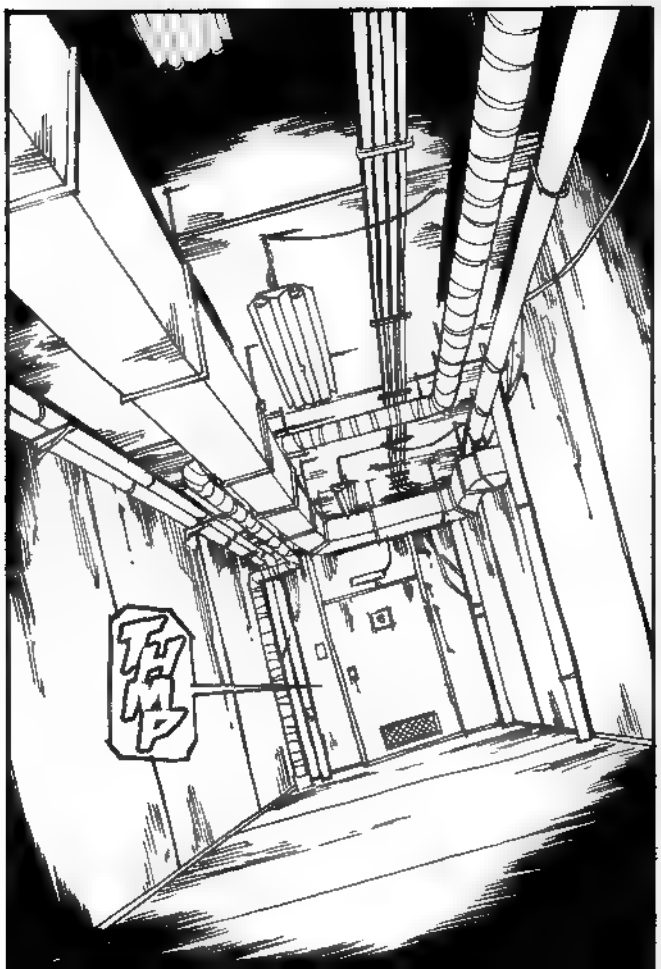
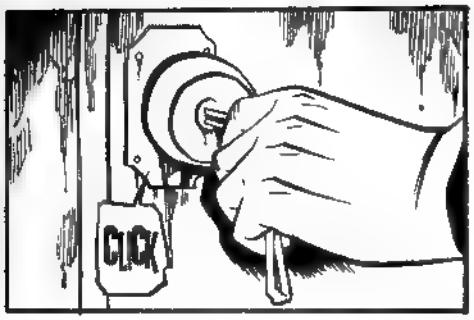
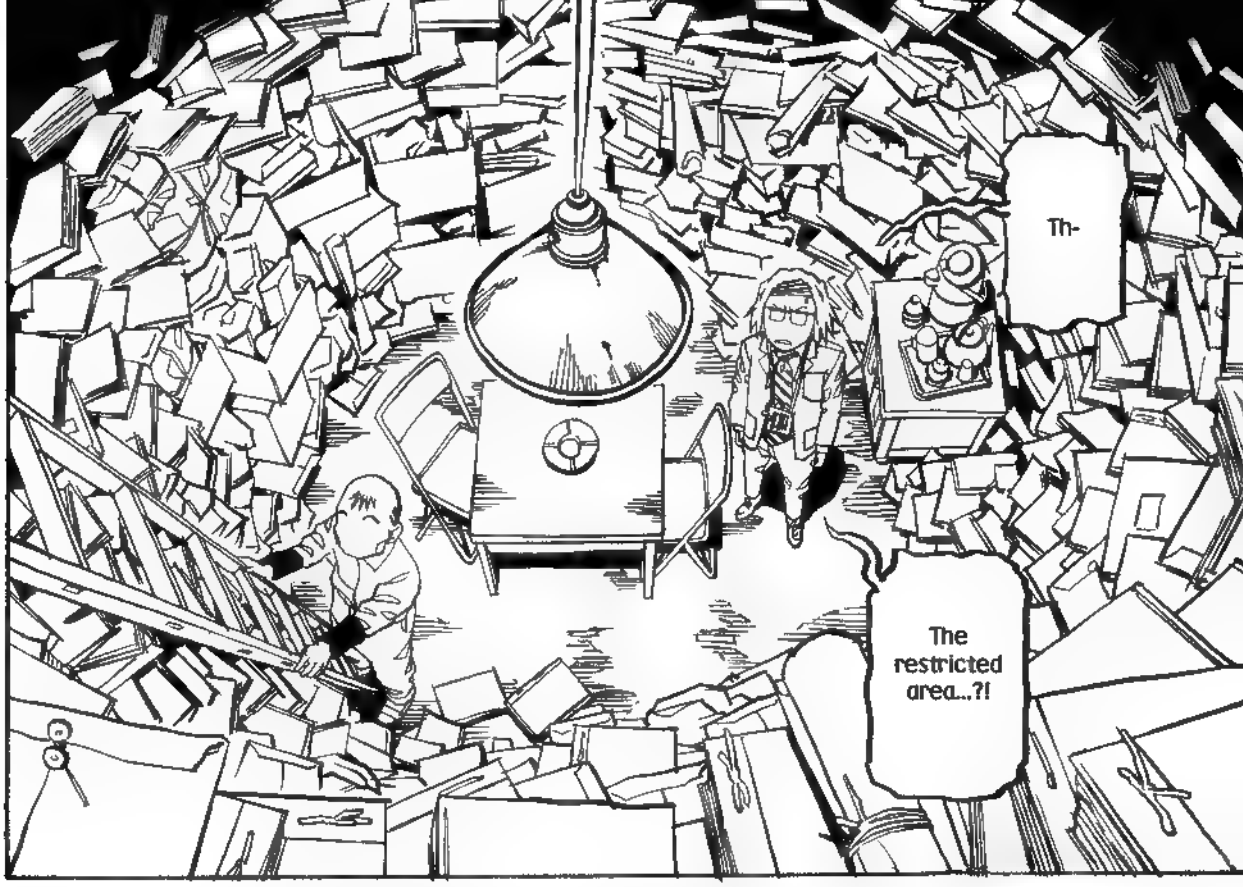
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK

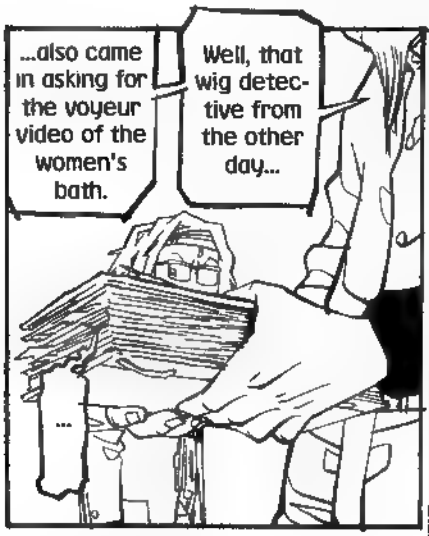


BLOCK 2-10

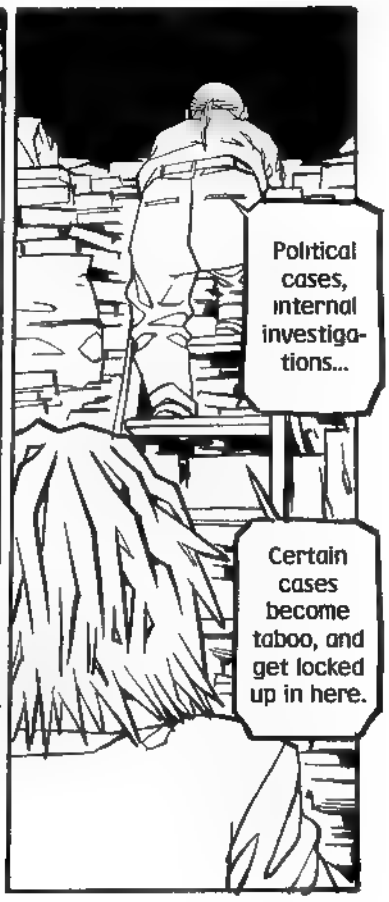





Th-
The restricted area...?!


...also came in asking for the voyeur video of the women's bath.
Well, that wig detective from the other day...
...

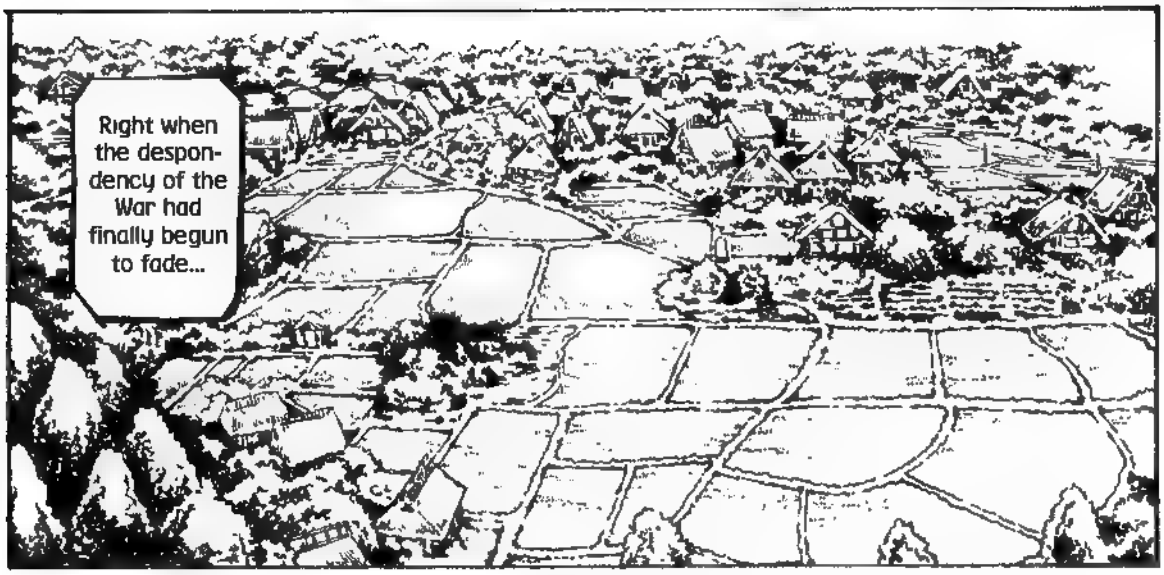
But if the champion of Kamikawa Station wishes to see it, I am left with no choice.
Th-thank you, sir...

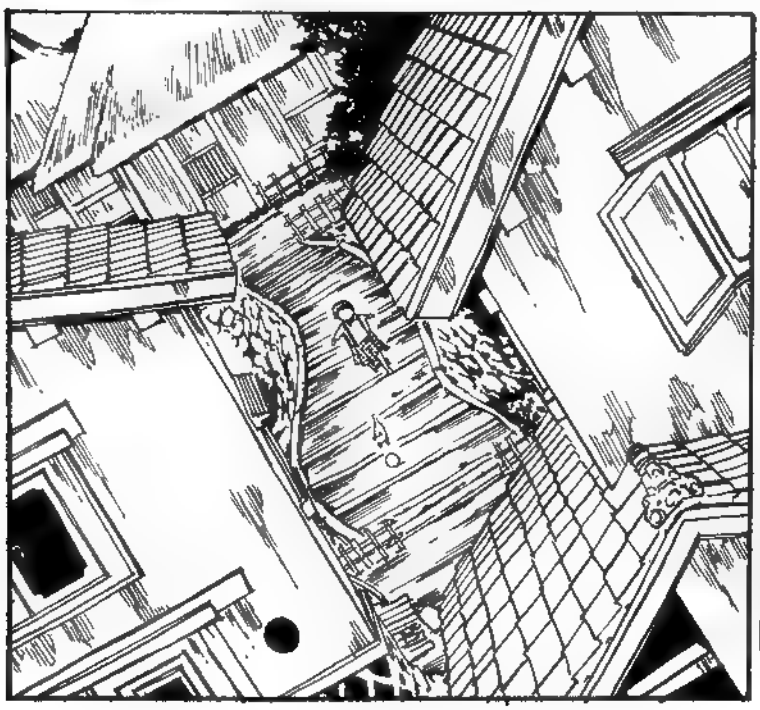

Political cases, internal investigations...
Certain cases become taboo, and get locked up in here.

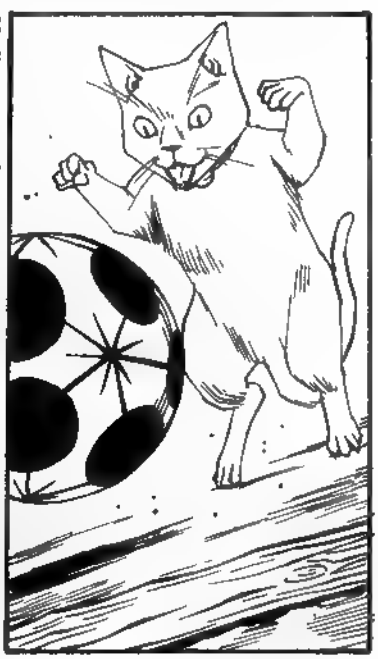
Here...
7-631-B
This is it.
TAPE

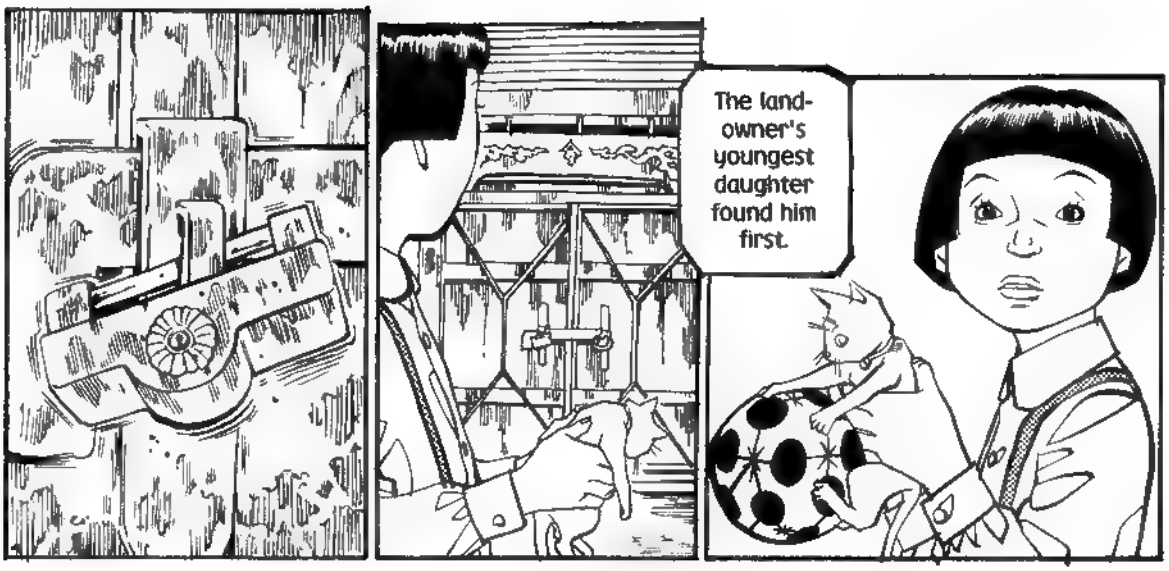
[The Soiru Village Case]

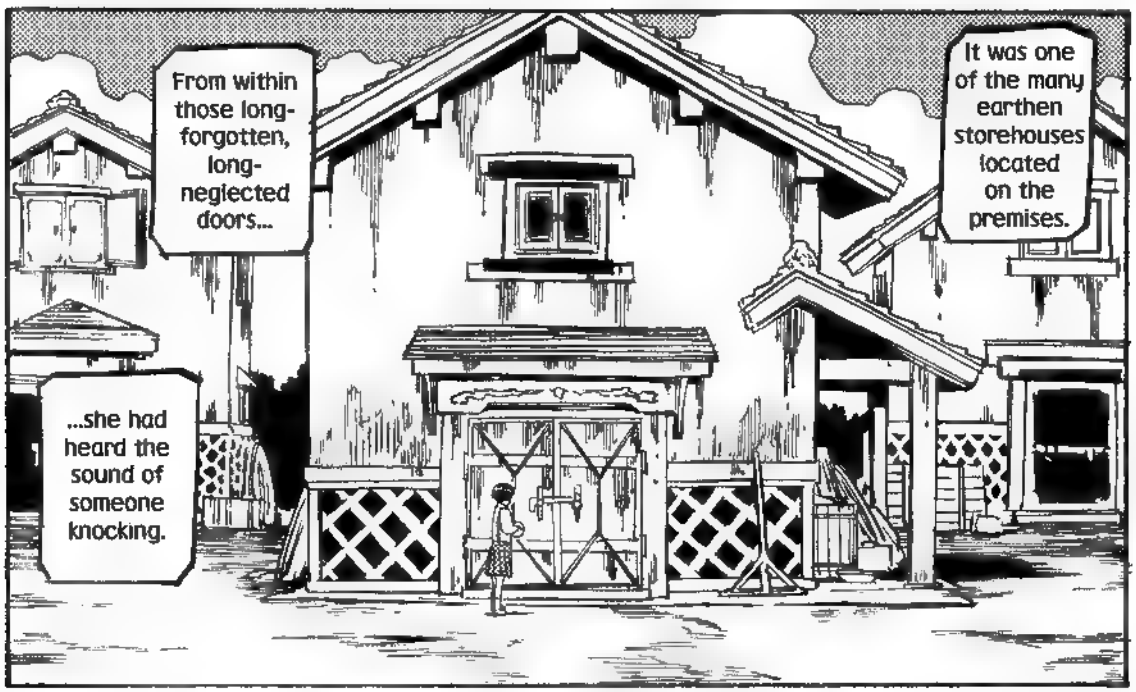
July
1951...



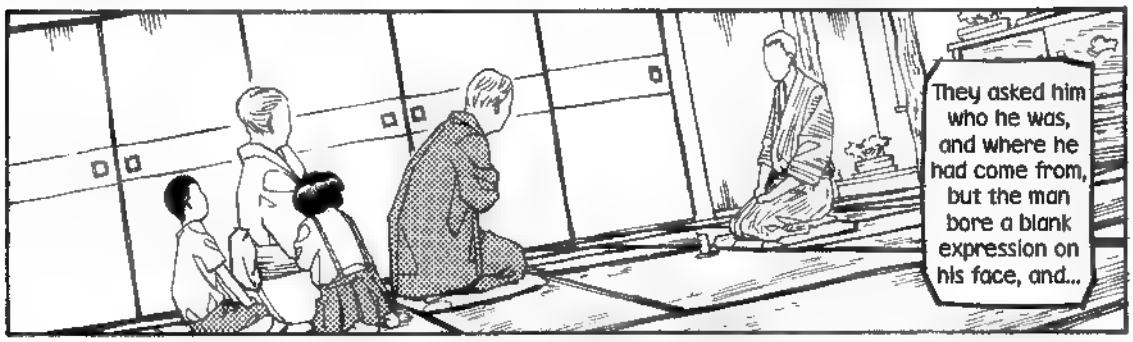




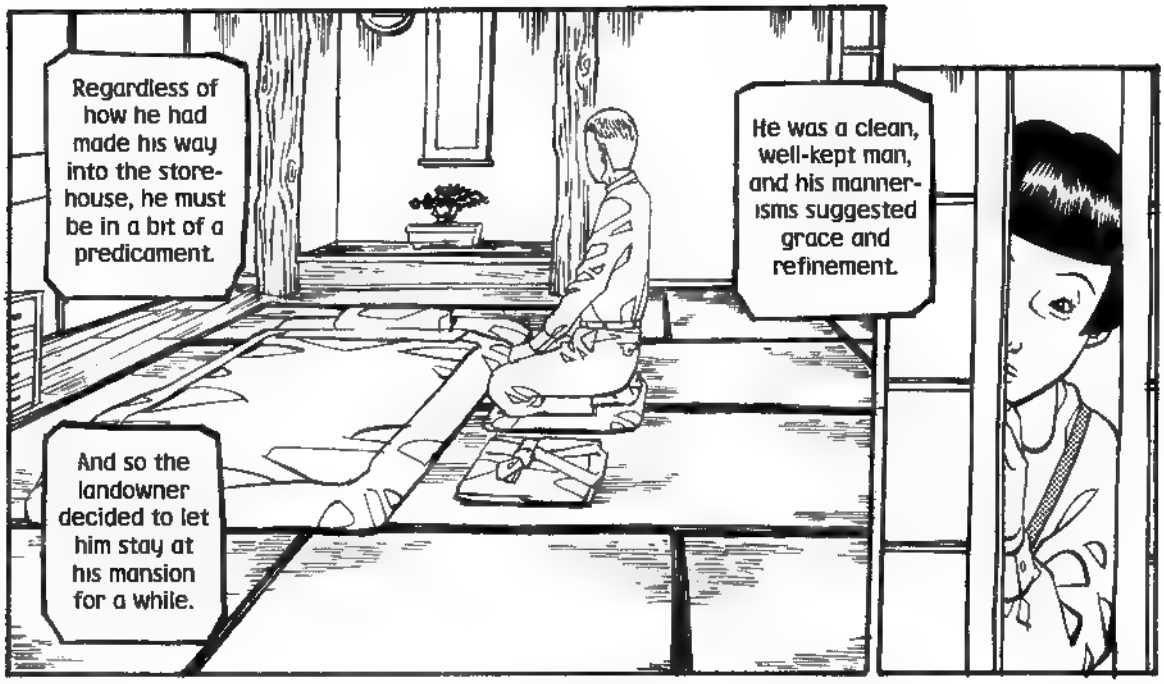

The land-owner's youngest daughter found him first.

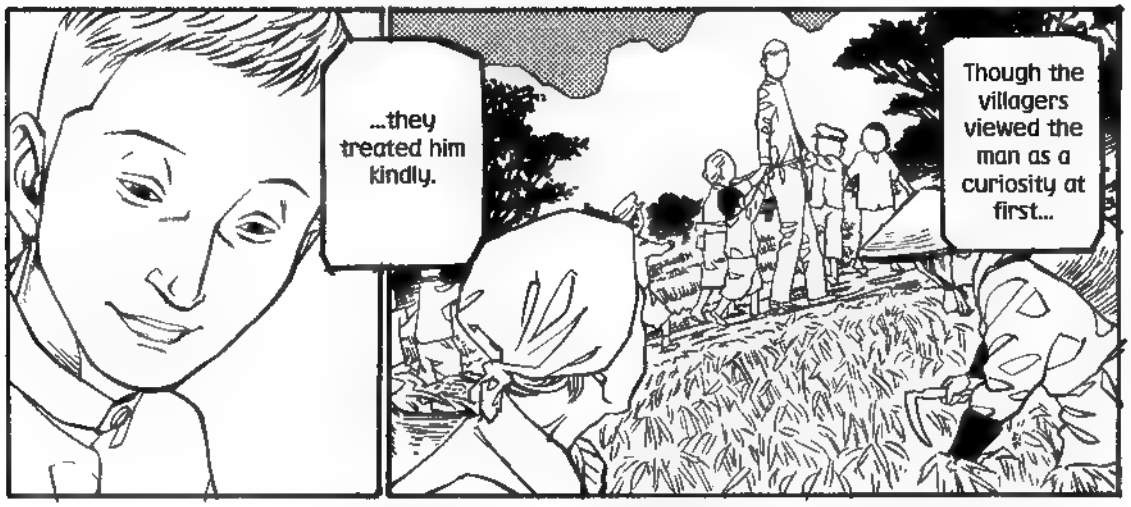

From within those long-forgotten, long-neglected doors...
It was one of the many earthen storehouses located on the premises.
...she had heard the sound of someone knocking.

Upon opening the rusted padlock, they discovered a stranger standing inside.

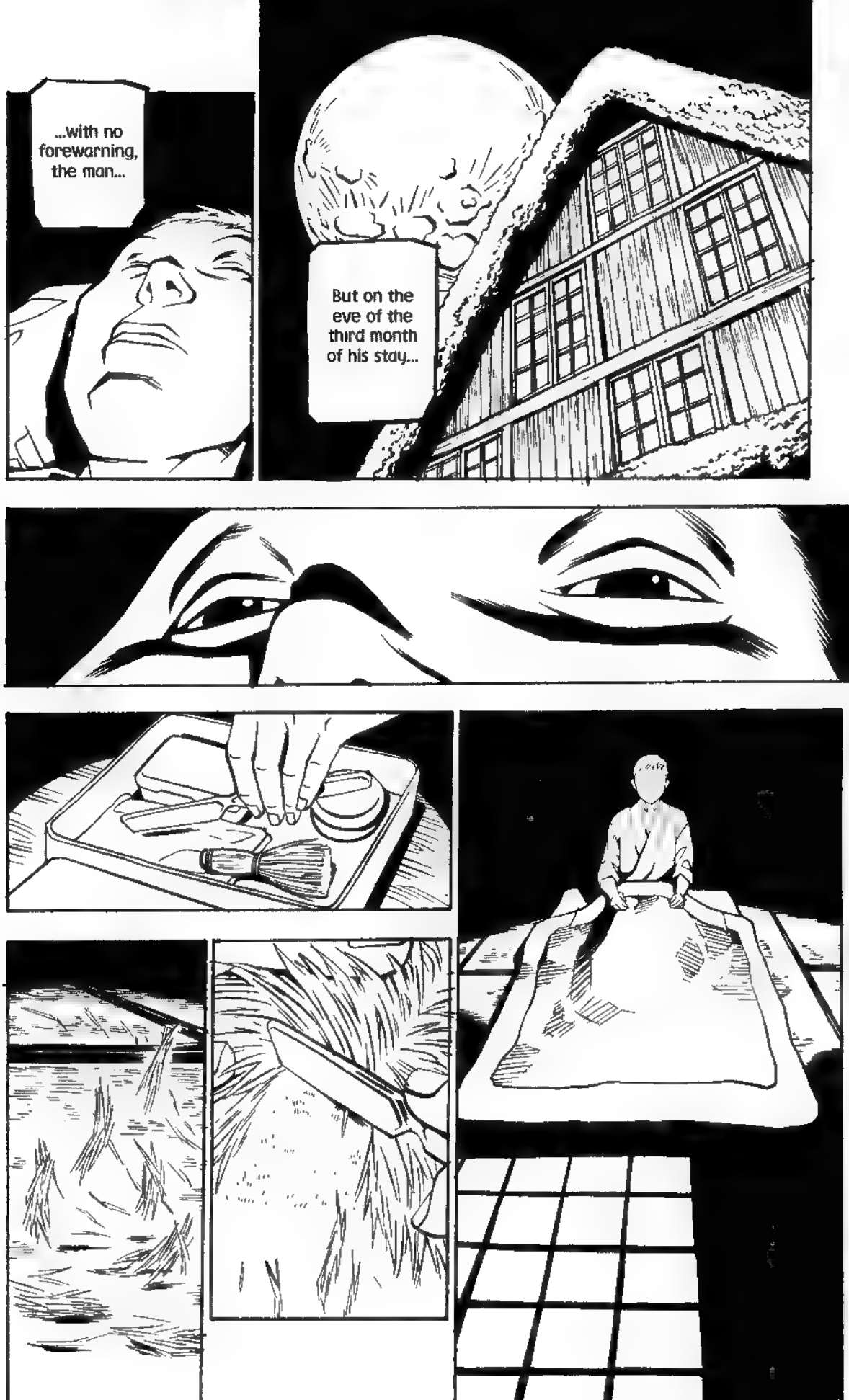

They asked him who he was, and where he had come from, but the man bore a blank expression on his face, and...

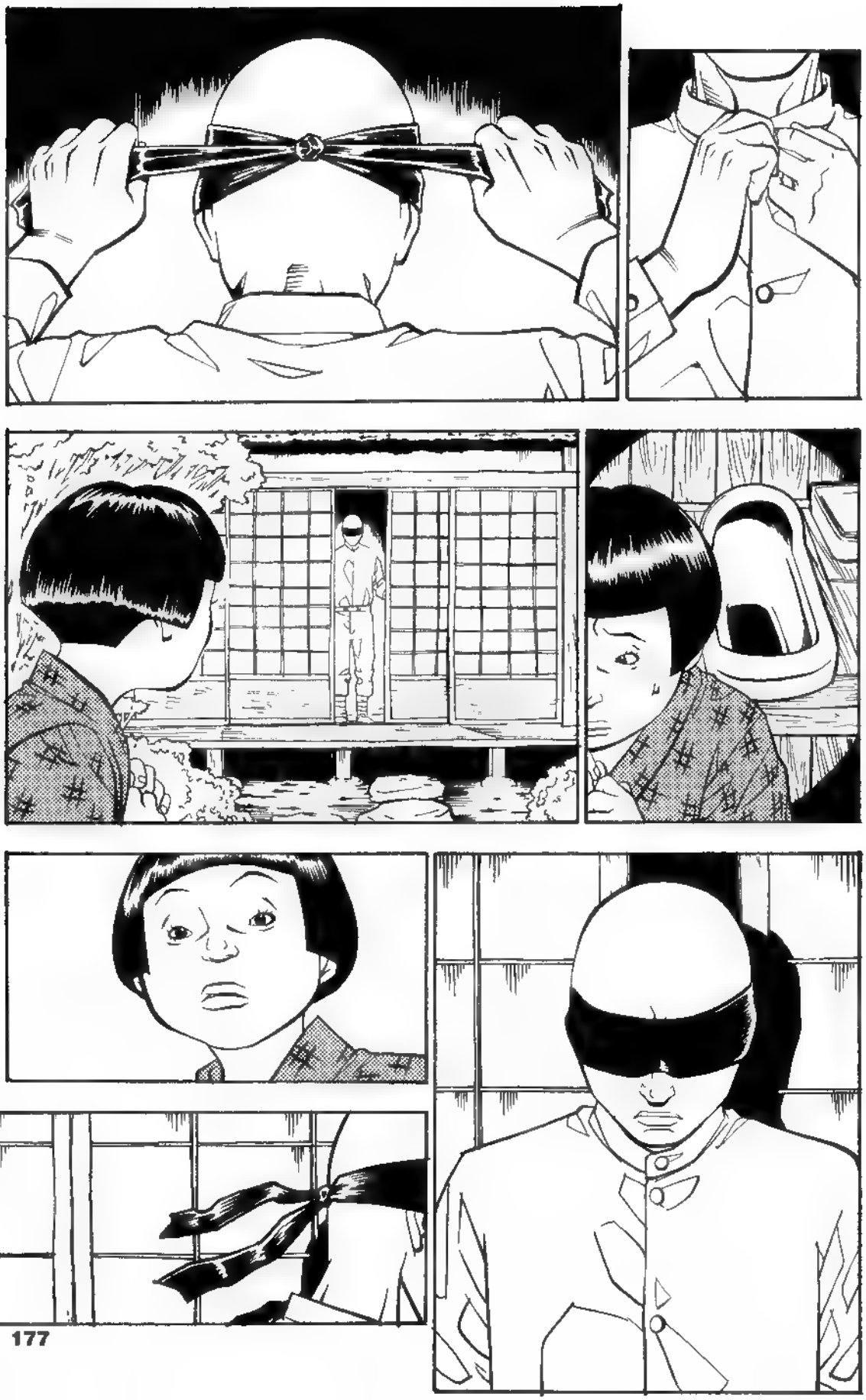
...was the only answer he would offer.
I am probably not of this realm.

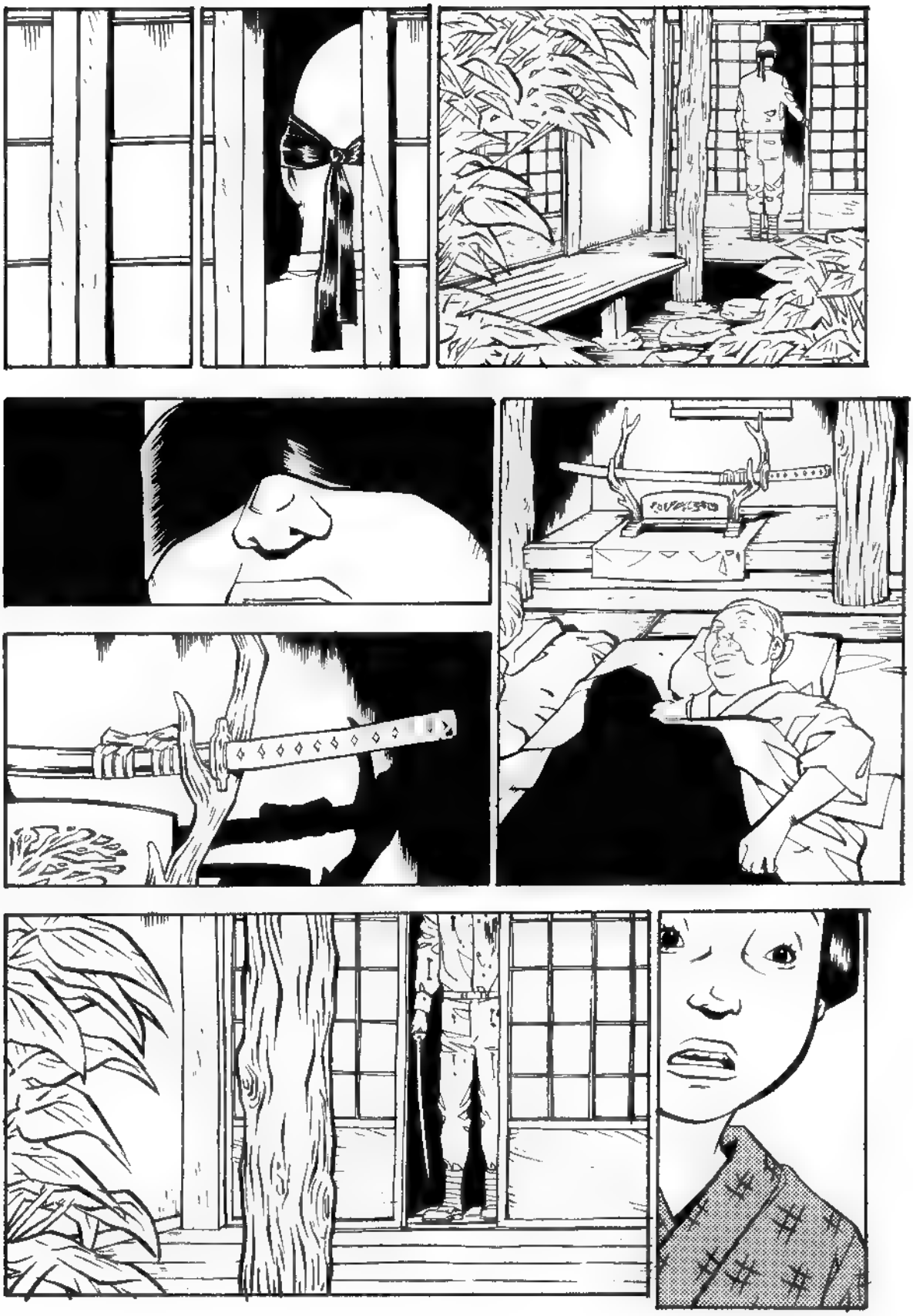

Regardless of how he had made his way into the storehouse, he must be in a bit of a predicament.
He was a clean, well-kept man, and his mannerisms suggested grace and refinement.
And so the landowner decided to let him stay at his mansion for a while.

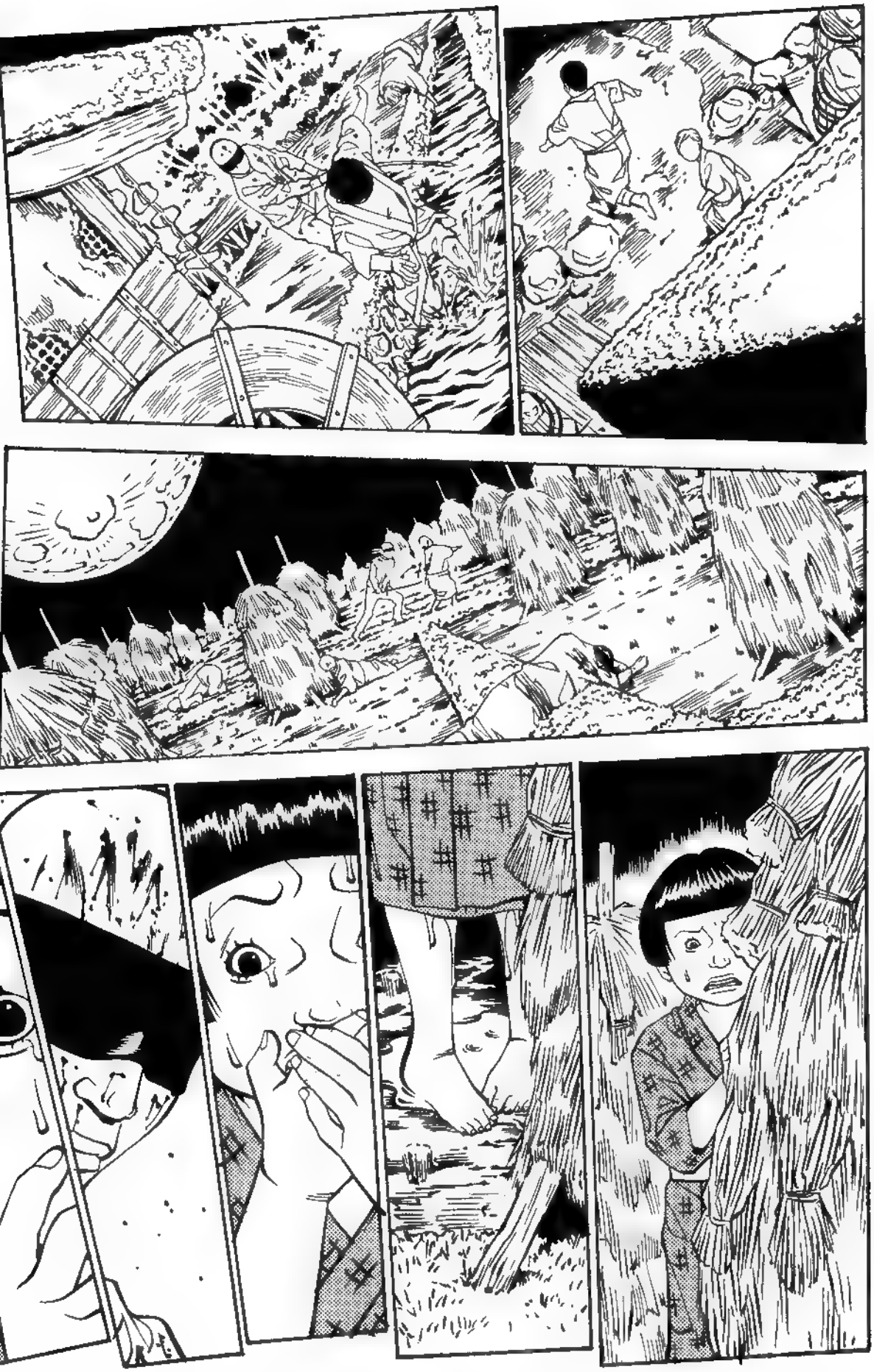

...they treated him kindly.
Though the villagers viewed the man as a curiosity at first...

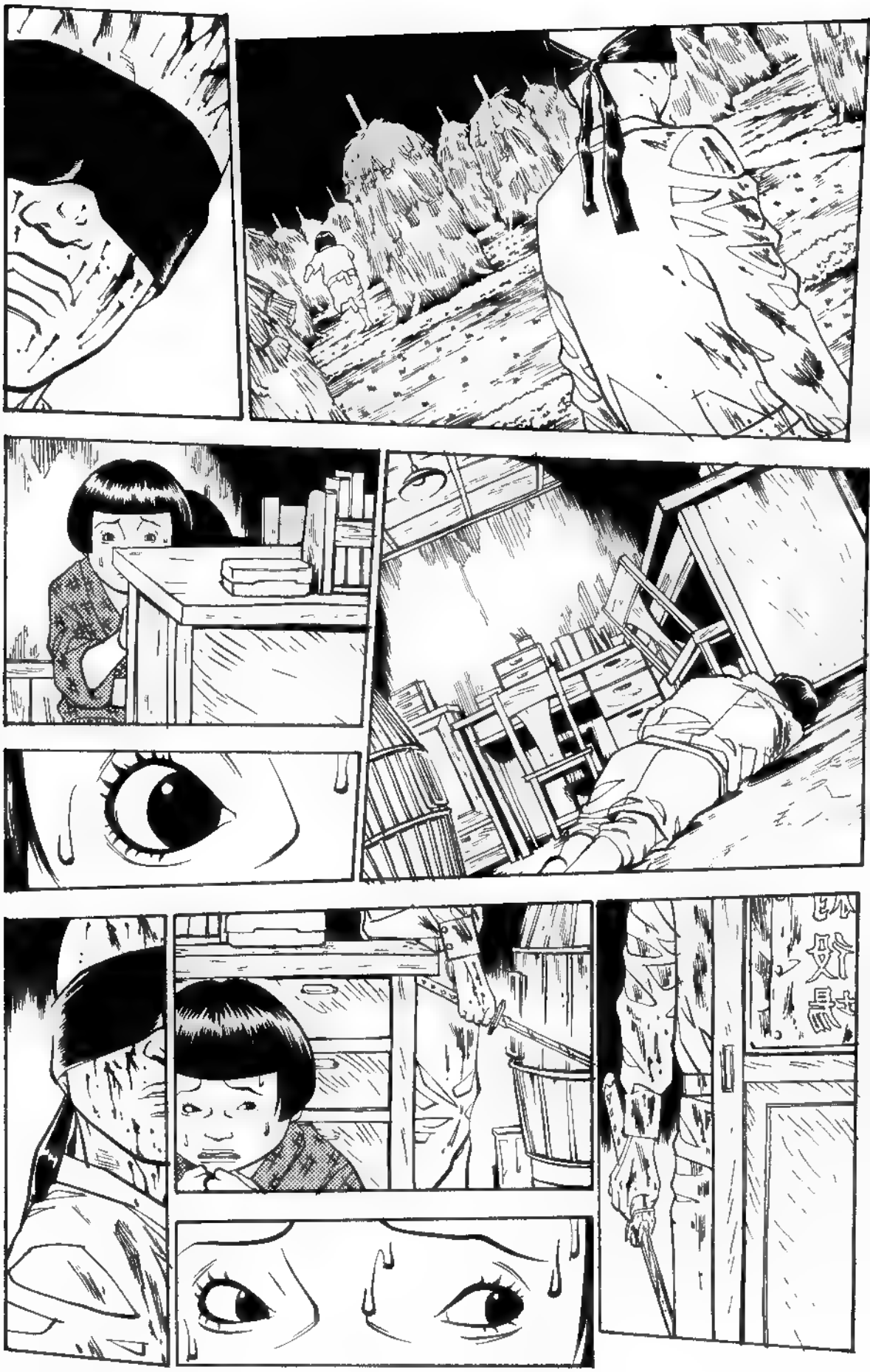
And the man seemed to have taken a liking to the village.

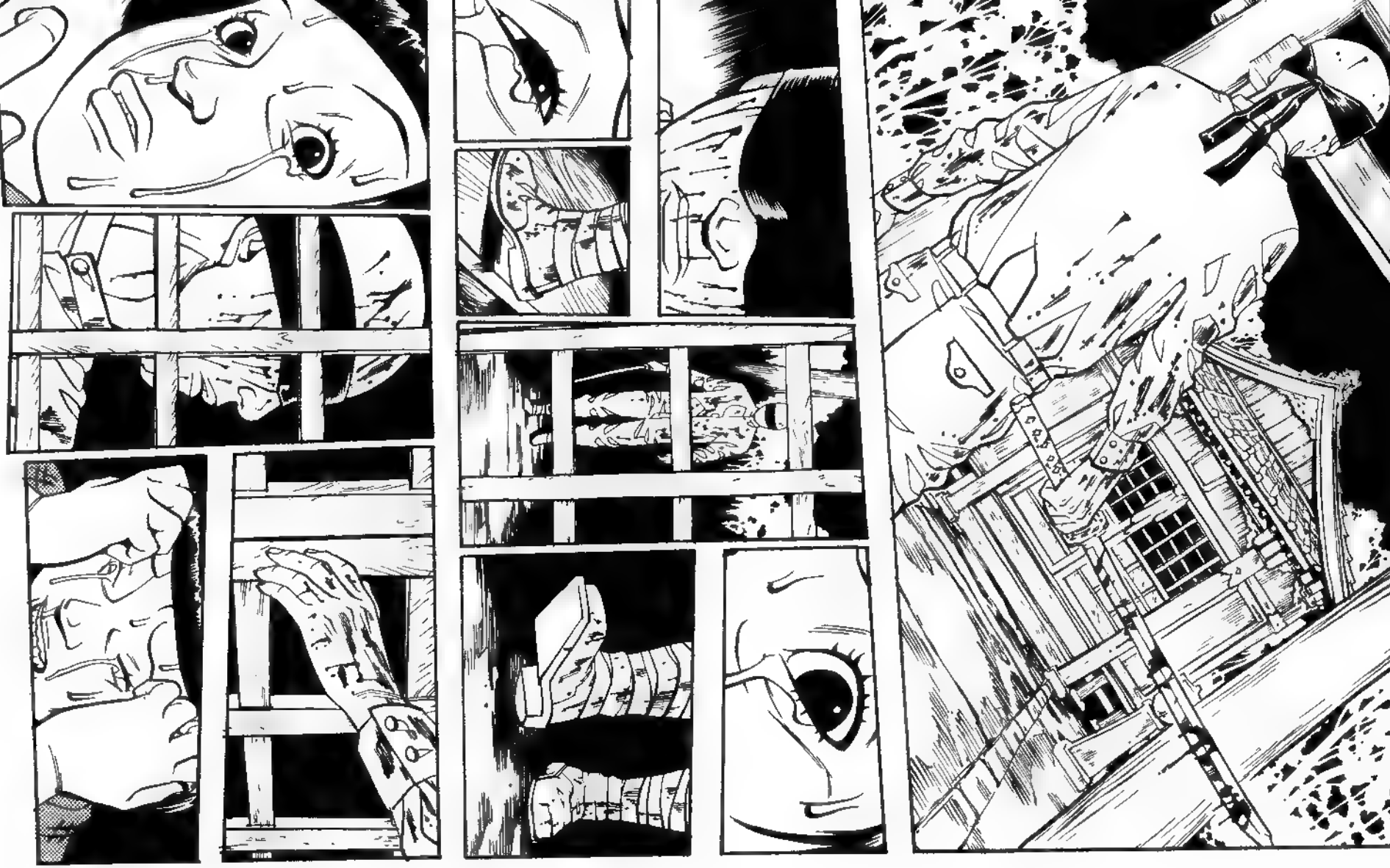

...with no forewarning, the man...
But on the eve of the third month of his stay...



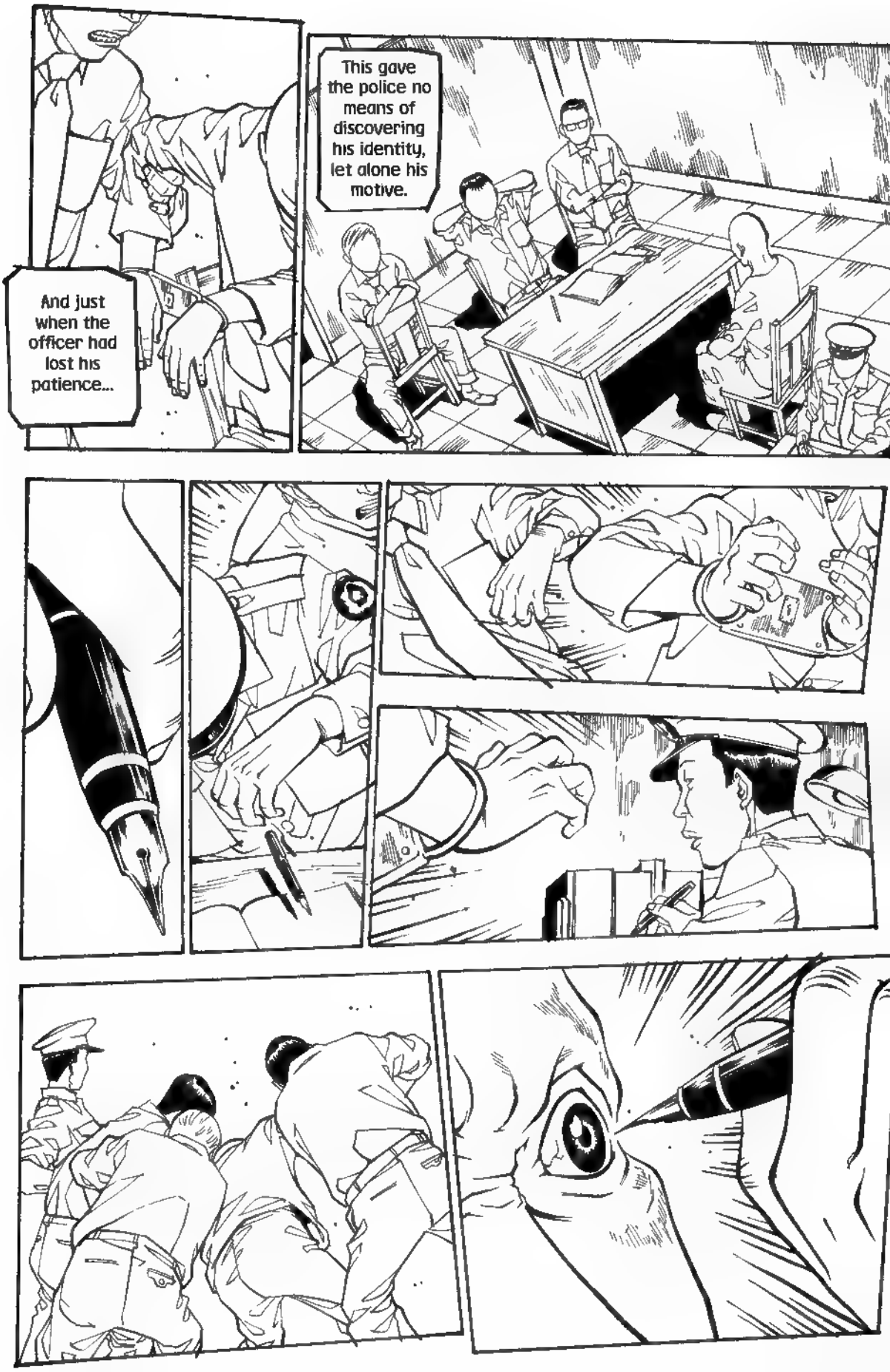








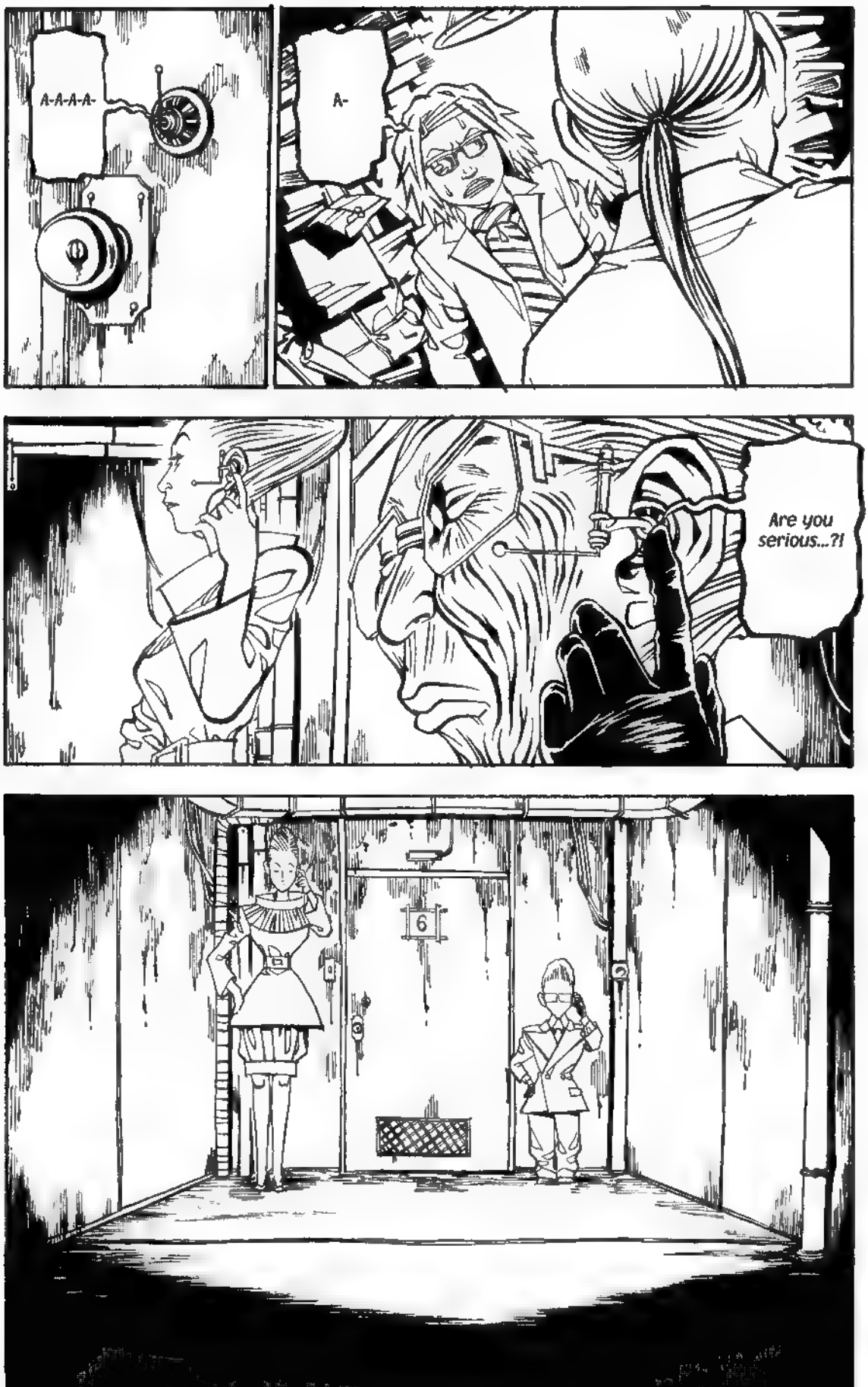
A-and that was...
"Miss Sayuri...?"
So the blindfolded man was captured...
...sent over to what was Kamikawa Station at the time...
...and the interro-gation began...
But the man bore a blank expression on his face, and...
I am probably not of this realm.
...was the only answer he would offer.


And just when the officer had lost his patience...
This gave the police no means of discovering his identity, let alone his motive.

There is still another!
There is still another somewhere!
There is still another!
...they placed him in a mental hospital.
In the end, they decided that the man had lost his mind. So instead of charging him...
S-s-so, the man was put to death...?
L-l-lost his mind...?!
A-and what happened th-th-then...?
That's the end of the record.
Nope, he wasn't.
Uhhhh ...

A looong looong time...
He's been looking for Sayuri for a long time...
He hasn't given up...
...
I'm telling you, he's not dead...
What?
Well, I think that's enough for now.
THMP
U-umm...
Wh-which hospital did they send him to...?
Ahhh ...
Hmm ...
Don't try and find out more than what's written in the files.
Bu... B-b-but...
...but you probably don't wanna mess with any of the stuff we have in here.
I don't know why you guys are digging up an old case like this...

I-I-I need something that would shed light upon this whole incident...
A-a-and these days, there have been so many things that simply defy comprehension...
As a detective...
...I believe a case is never "solved" until you understand it in its entirety!
Oh... Well, you see...
...is locked up in here. How's that?
I'll tell you the reason why this case...
Hmm, then... I know.
Huh?
I was one of the officers handling that interrogation...


A-A-A-A-
A-
Are you serious...?!
6

SOIL
Block 2-10 [End]

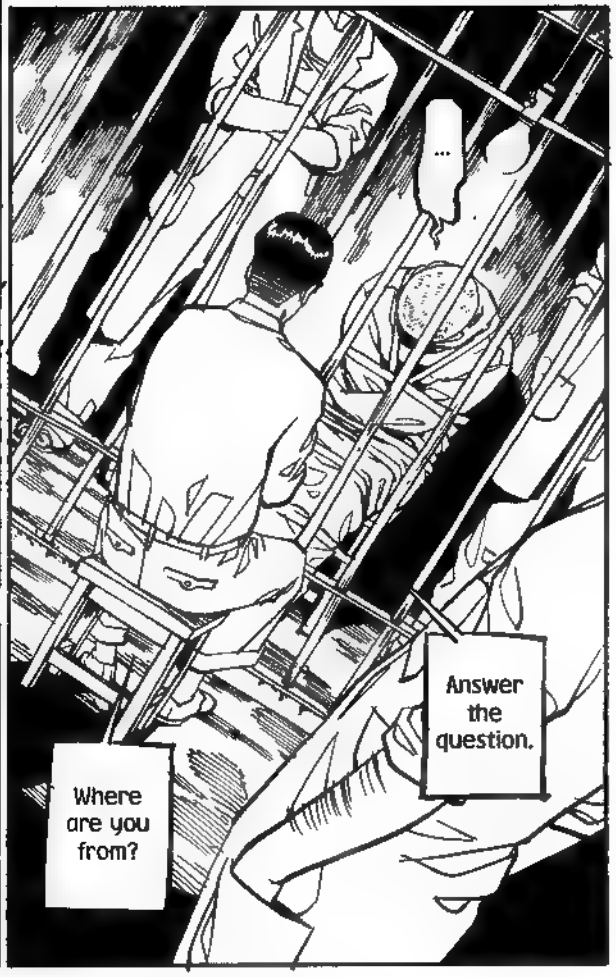
SOIL
Block 2-11 [Detective Yomogida]

There is still another!
BLOCK 2-11
There is still another!
Calm down, you imbecile!
There is still another!
SLIT
Aaagh!
Hey, take that pen away from him!

[Detective Yomogida]

I had a colleague named Yomogida.
A stubborn, headstrong detective. Just like you, Lady Sword-master...
...
glug glug glug glug
But this Yomogida fellow just wouldn't let it go.
glug glug glug
They closed the Soiru Village Case without ever figuring out who the blindfolded man was. No one was ever charged.
What's your name?

Still another ...
There is still another...

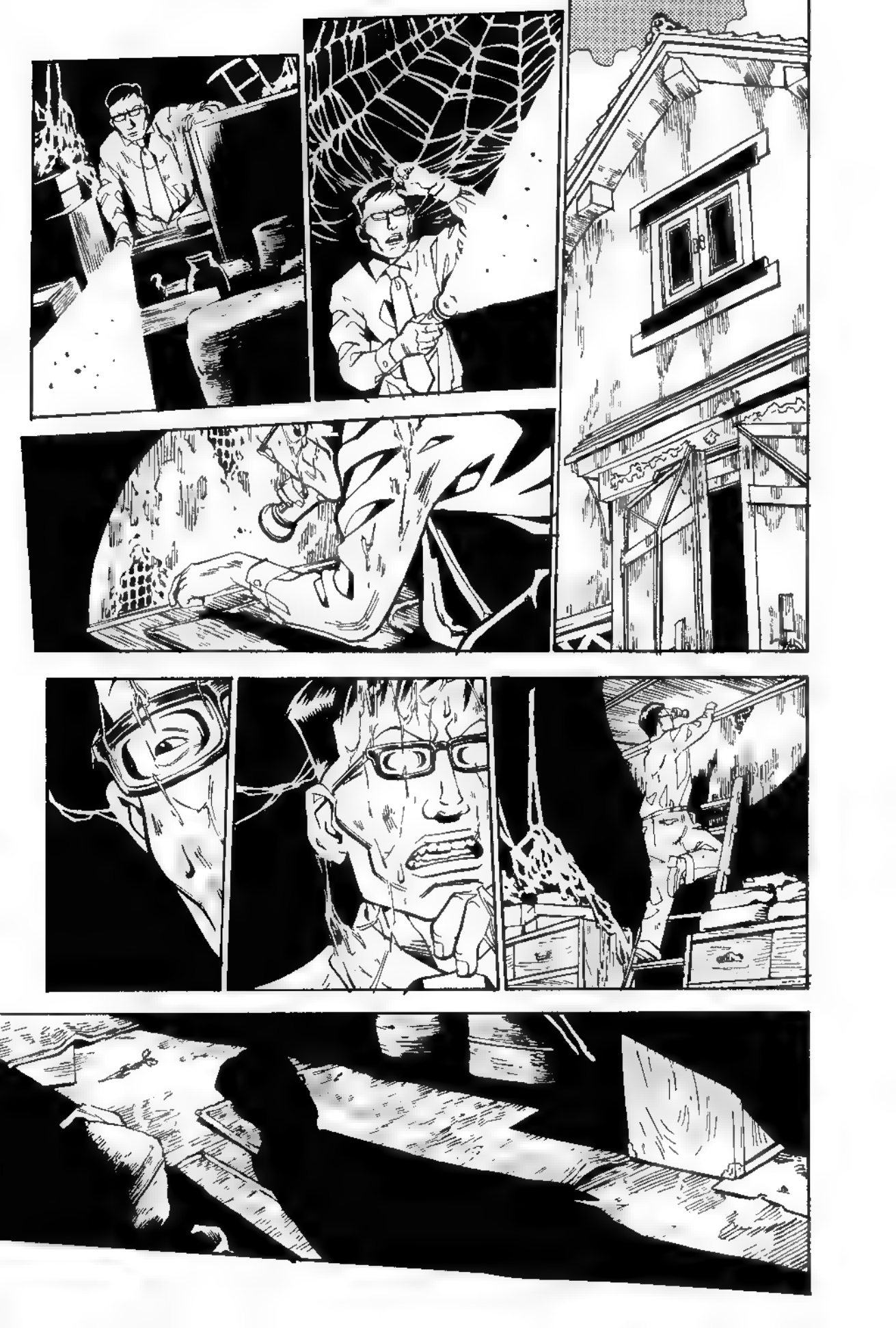

...
Answer the question.
Where are you from?

S-

I'll find out who you really are!
It's not over yet!
I'll find you out, you hear?!
Still another ...
Still another ...

Stop playing a fool, you bastard!
P-please, Detective!

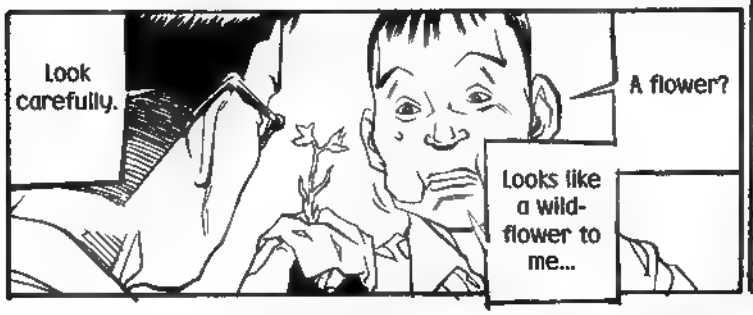
That scary man isn't here anymore.
Sayuri? Sayuri?
Come back to the orphanage with us.



It was a completely sealed room.
No matter how many times I look, I can't find any openings in that storehouse.

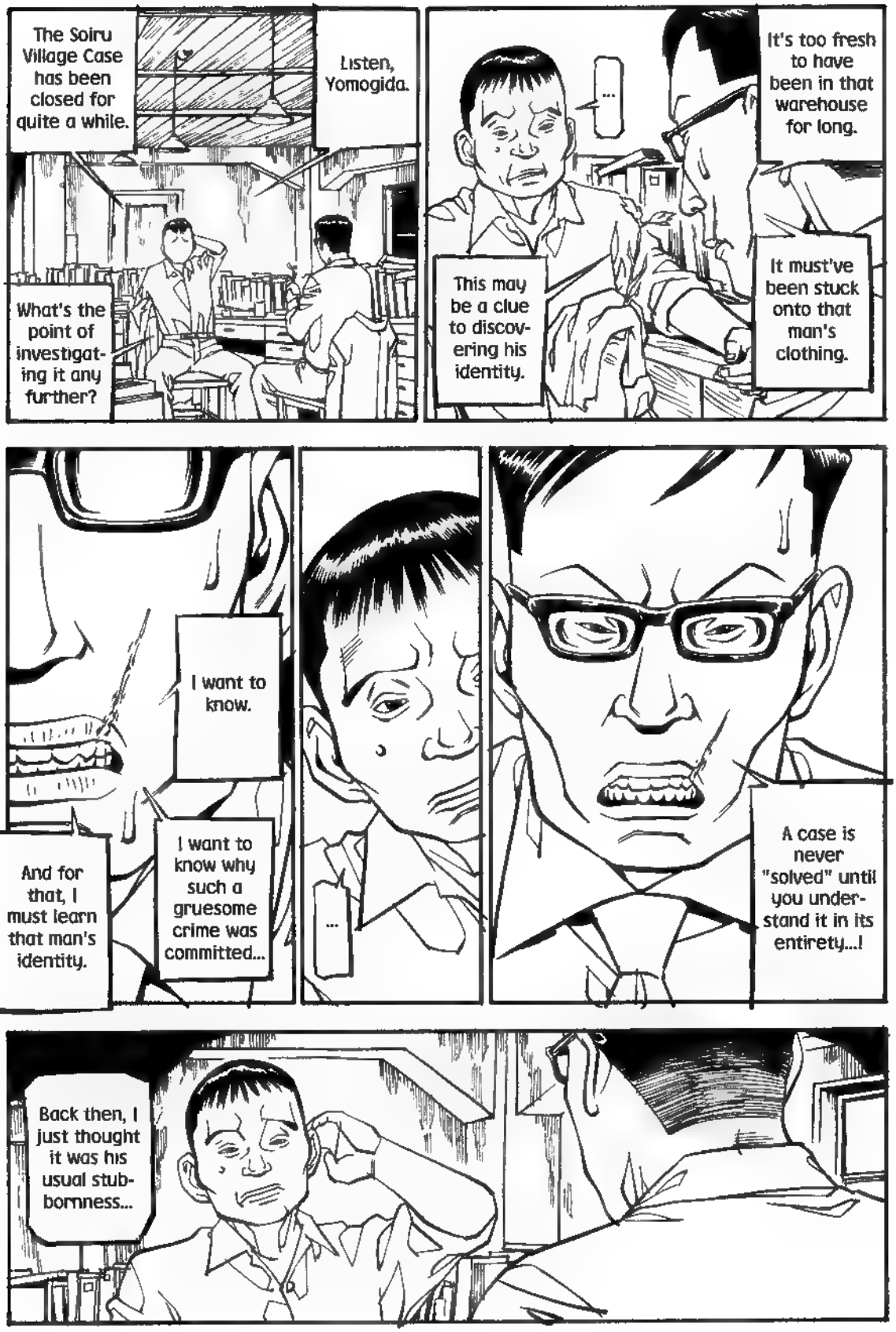
But look, Tendo.
I found this today.

So how could he have gotten in there...?

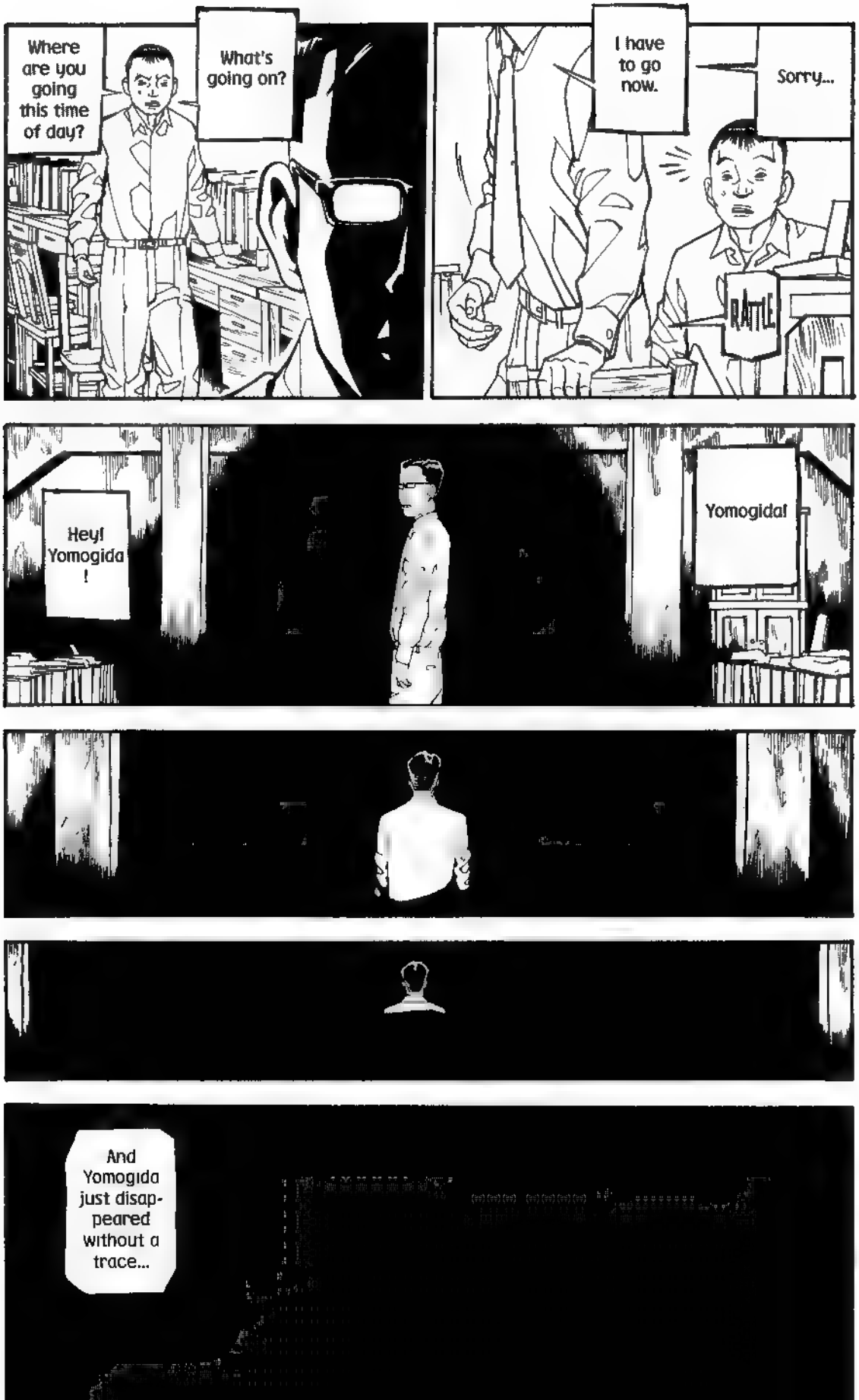

Look carefully.
A flower?
Looks like a wild-flower to me...

But he's never seen anything like this before.
An expert told me this sort of thing occurs from time to time when the ground is contaminated.

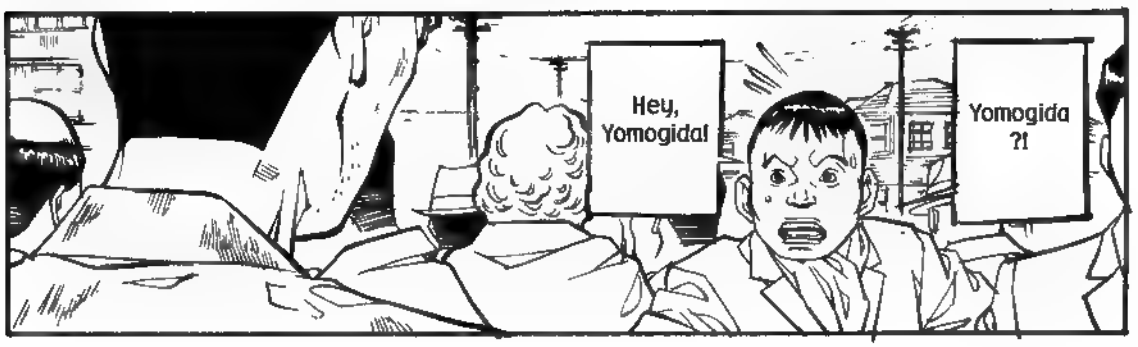
It's a mutant.
Two flowers from a single stalk.


The Soiru Village Case has been closed for quite a while.
Listen, Yomogida.
What's the point of investigating it any further?
...
It's too fresh to have been in that warehouse for long.
This may be a clue to discovering his identity.
It must've been stuck onto that man's clothing.
I want to know.
And for that, I must learn that man's identity.
I want to know why such a gruesome crime was committed...
...
A case is never "solved" until you understand it in its entirety...!
Back then, I just thought it was his usual stubbornness...

Something inexplicable hidden behind that face of his...
But now that I think about it, I should've known there was something...
...
Huh?
KSSH
What's wrong, Yomogida?
?
What are you looking at? Hey!
Hey, Yomogida!


Where are you going this time of day?
What's going on?
I have to go now.
Sorry...
RATTLE
Hey! Yomogida !
Yomogida!
And Yomogida just disappeared without a trace...

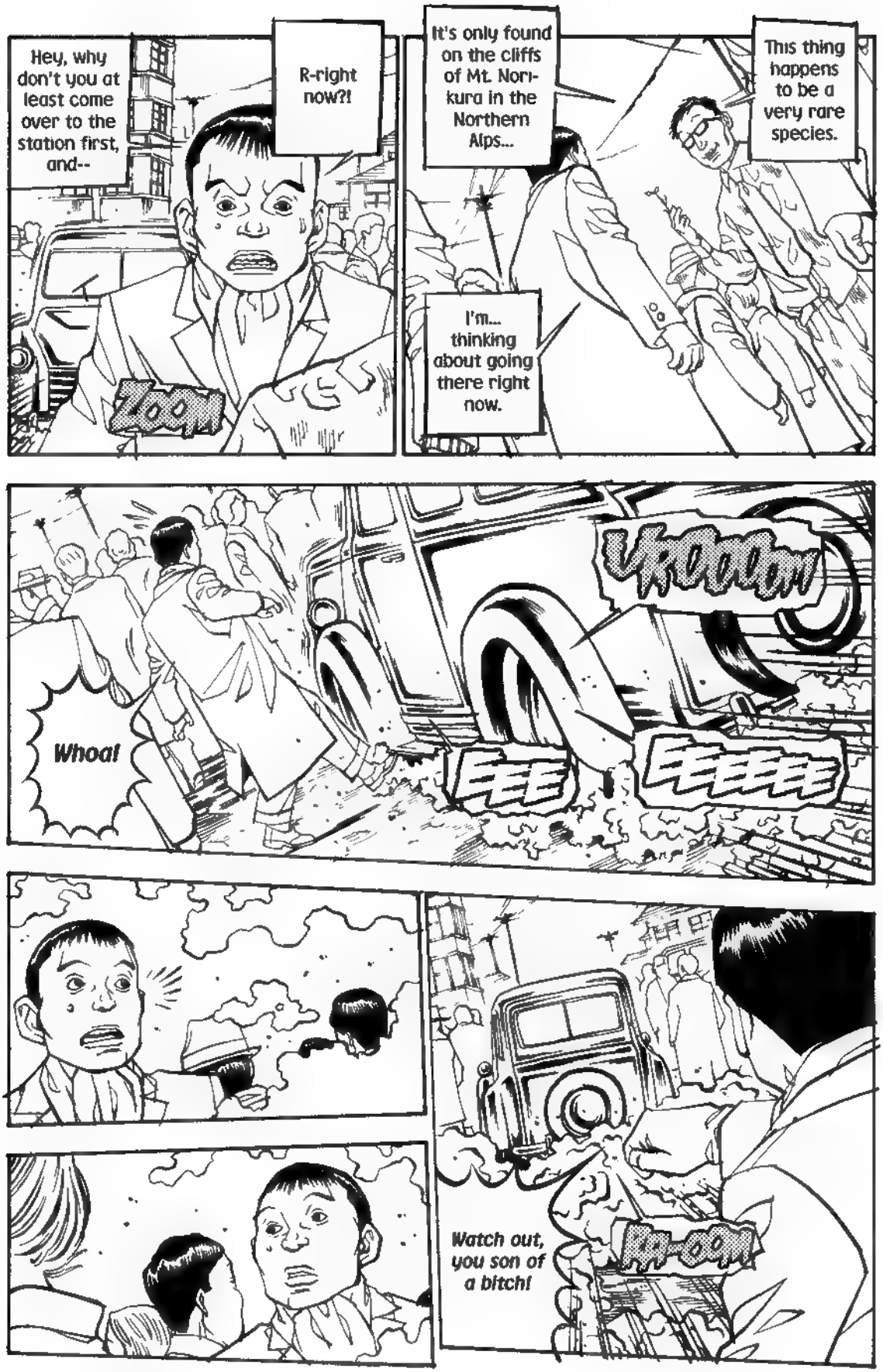
Then several months later...
?!


Hey, Yomogida!
Yomogida ?!

I see... So it's been that long, huh...
Ohh... Sorry about that...
What's wrong with you...?
Never mind that!
...
What the hell have you been doing these past few months...?!
Ahhhh...
It's you, Tendo...

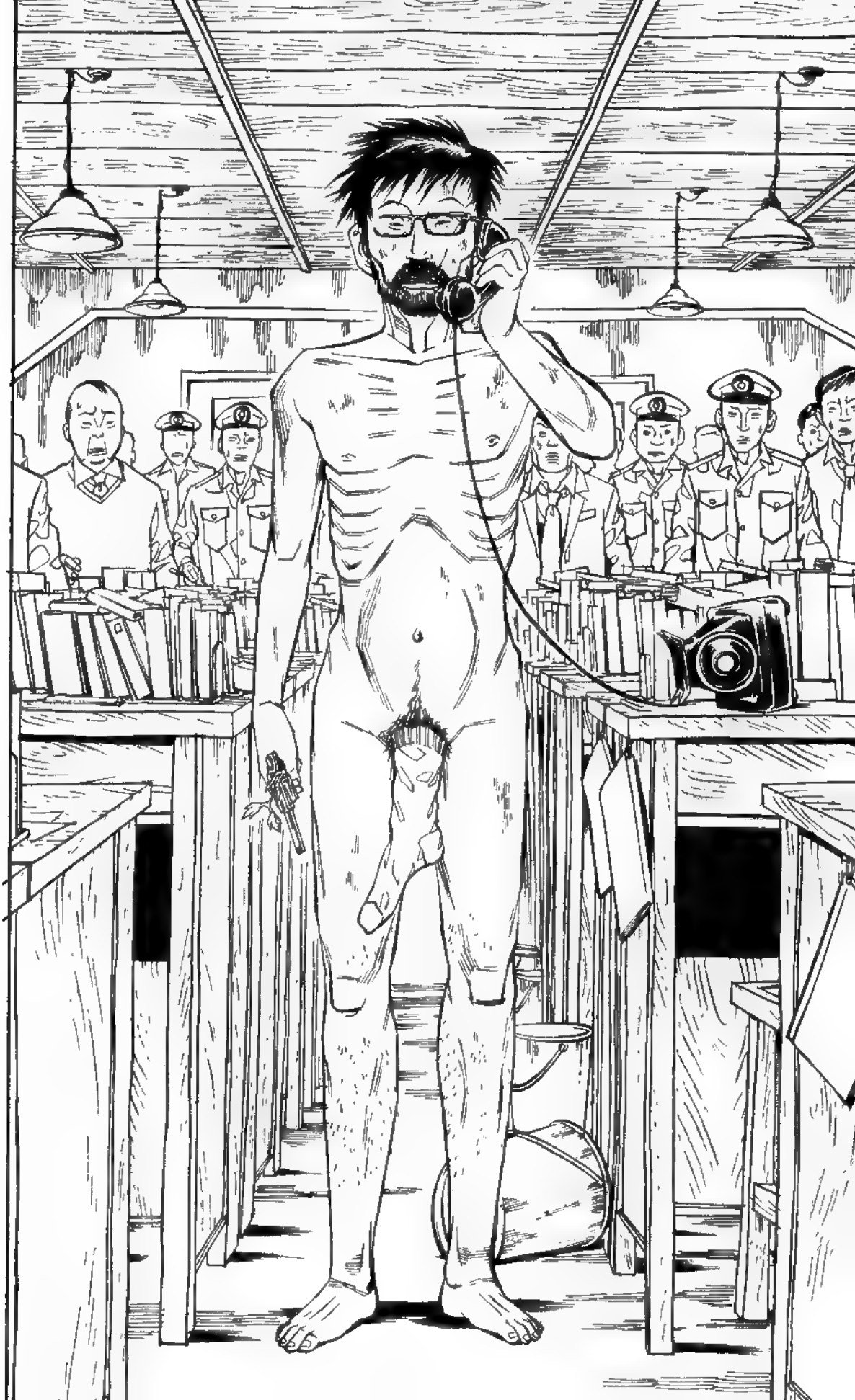
I keep going through this cycle where...
...as soon as I think I've gotten to the heart of things, I start all over again...
Oh... It seems like I've wandered into a very strange place...

What?!
But Tendo...
I think I might get my answer this time.
This flower...
You see...
This is a very strange case...
Very strange indeed...
...

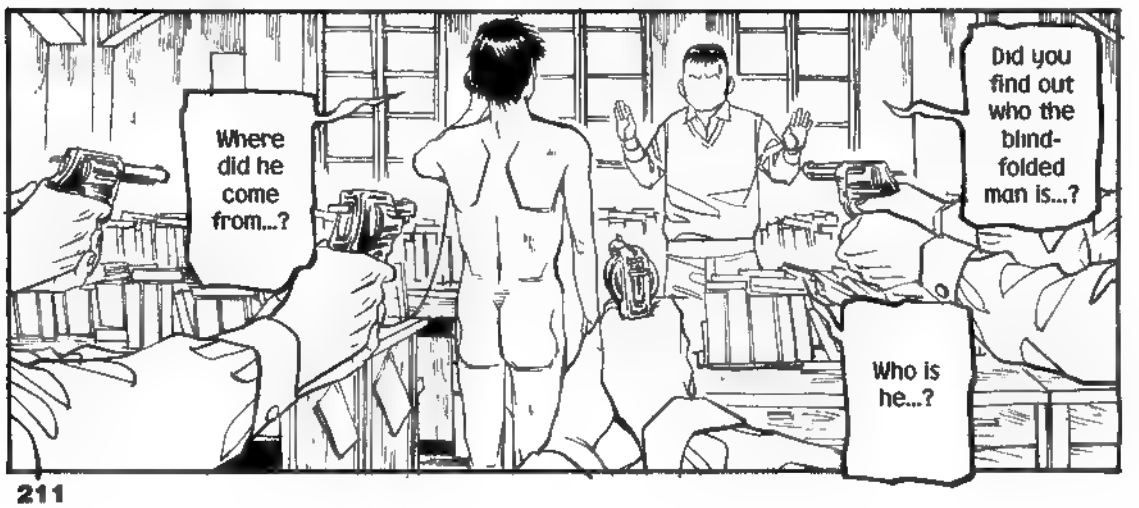

Hey, why don't you at least come over to the station first, and--
R-right now?!
ZOOM
It's only found on the cliffs of Mt. Norikura in the Northern Alps...
This thing happens to be a very rare species.
I'm... thinking about going there right now.
Whoa!
VROOOM
EEE
EEEEE
Watch out, you son of a bitch!
YA-OOM

KCHAK
Then after a few more months...
Yes, this is homicide unit speaking.
Hello? Hello?
Hello...?
Yomogida ...?
...

Between us... And them...
A chasm...
The two-headed flower...
What?
Yomogida! Are you all right?
Hey! Say some-thing!
...
Where are you...?
Hey! Where are you right now?!
Wh-what are you talking about?
Back...
Your...
A-all right, then what can you see from there...?
Can't you answer me?!

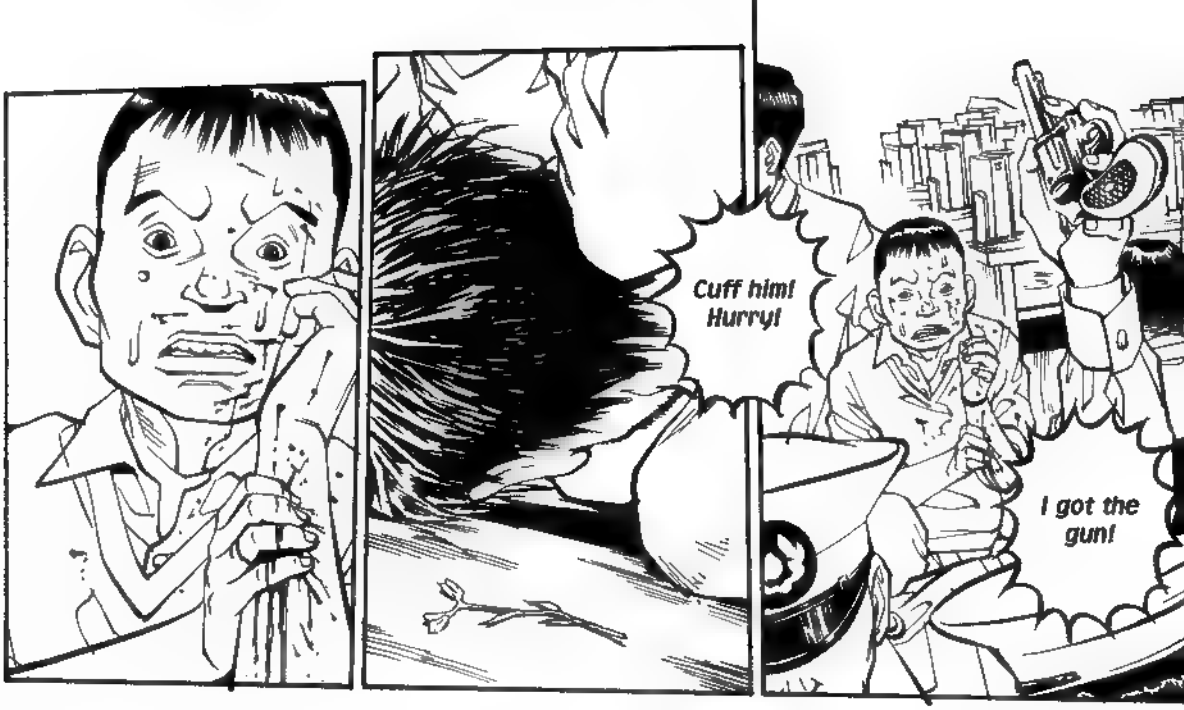


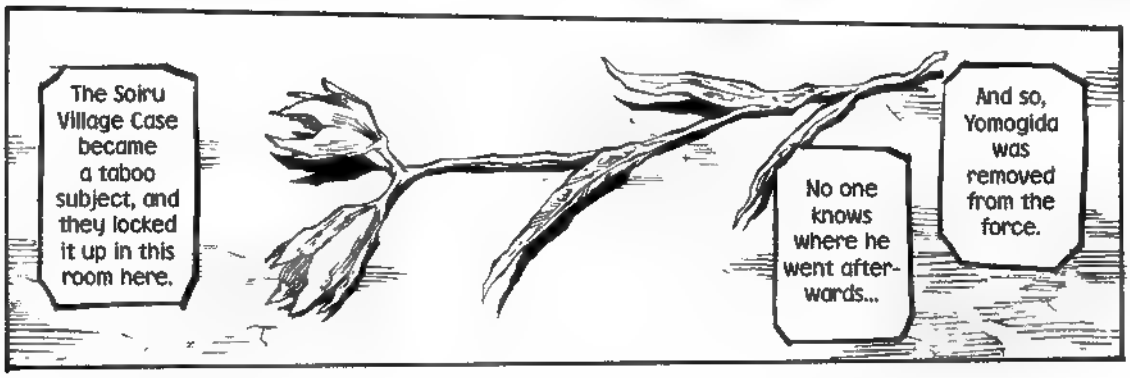
Hey... What happened to you...?
Calm down, Yomogida ...
Ca-


Where did he come from...?
Did you find out who the blind-folded man is...?
Who is he...?

What did you say...?!
...not of this realm.
He is probably ...
He is... a "foreign organism..."
...was never meant to be solved.
This mystery ...
You see, Tendo...?
This is it....
...

...in the first place.
...an answer...
There was never...
Rahhhhh!
You son of a bitch!
Are you okay, Tendo?!
Watch his hands! His hands!
Ugh!


Cuff him! Hurry!
I got the gun!


The Soiru Village Case became a taboo subject, and they locked it up in this room here.
No one knows where he went afterwards...
And so, Yomogida was removed from the force.

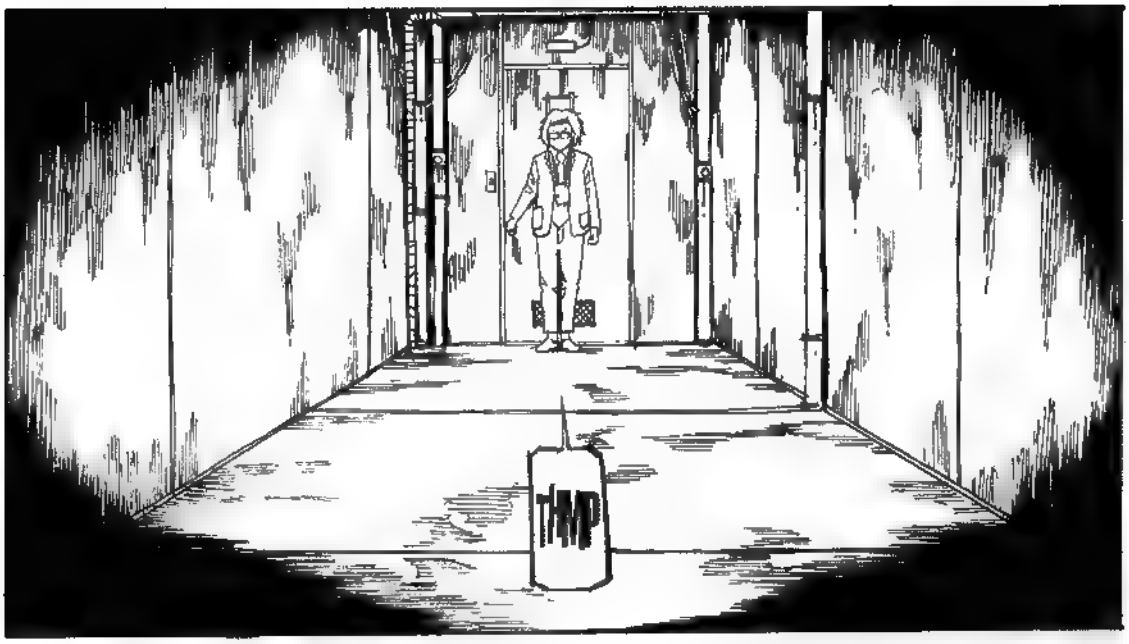
...but that incident definitely sealed my own fate.
I still don't know what those words meant...

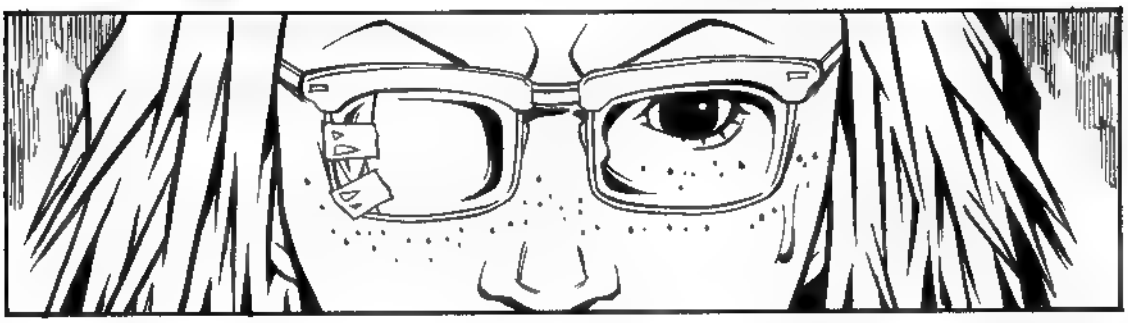
...quenching my passion for sports sword-fighting.
...
Thanks to him, I'm now happily retired and shall spend the rest of my days...

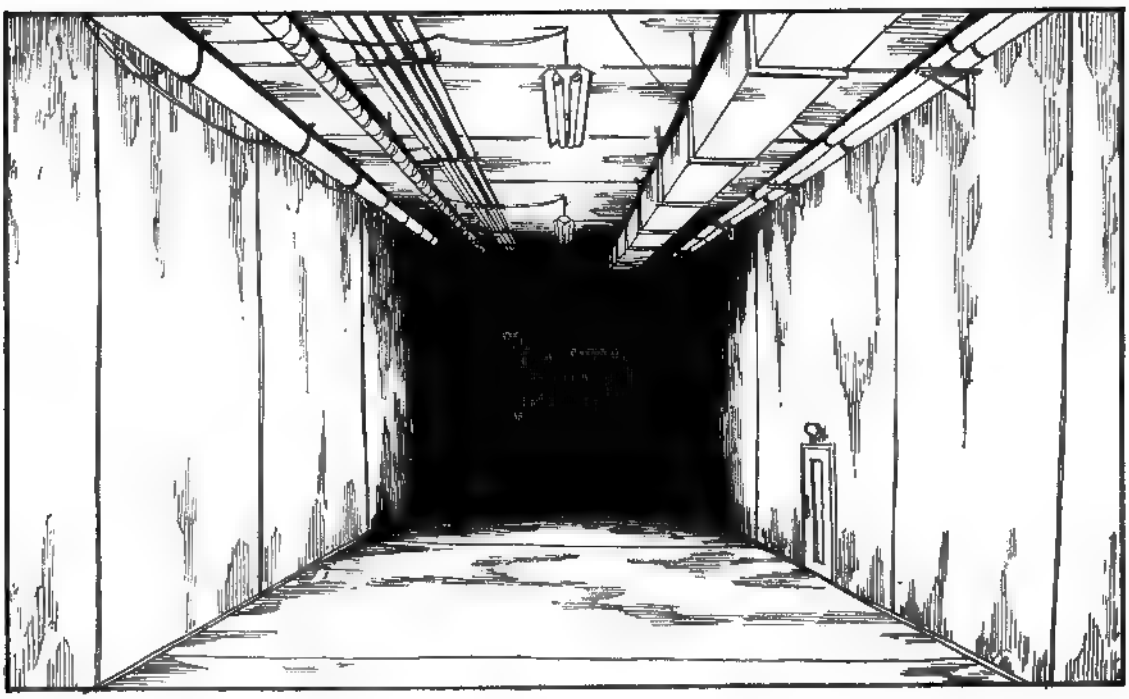
A mystery... That was never meant to be solved...
A-

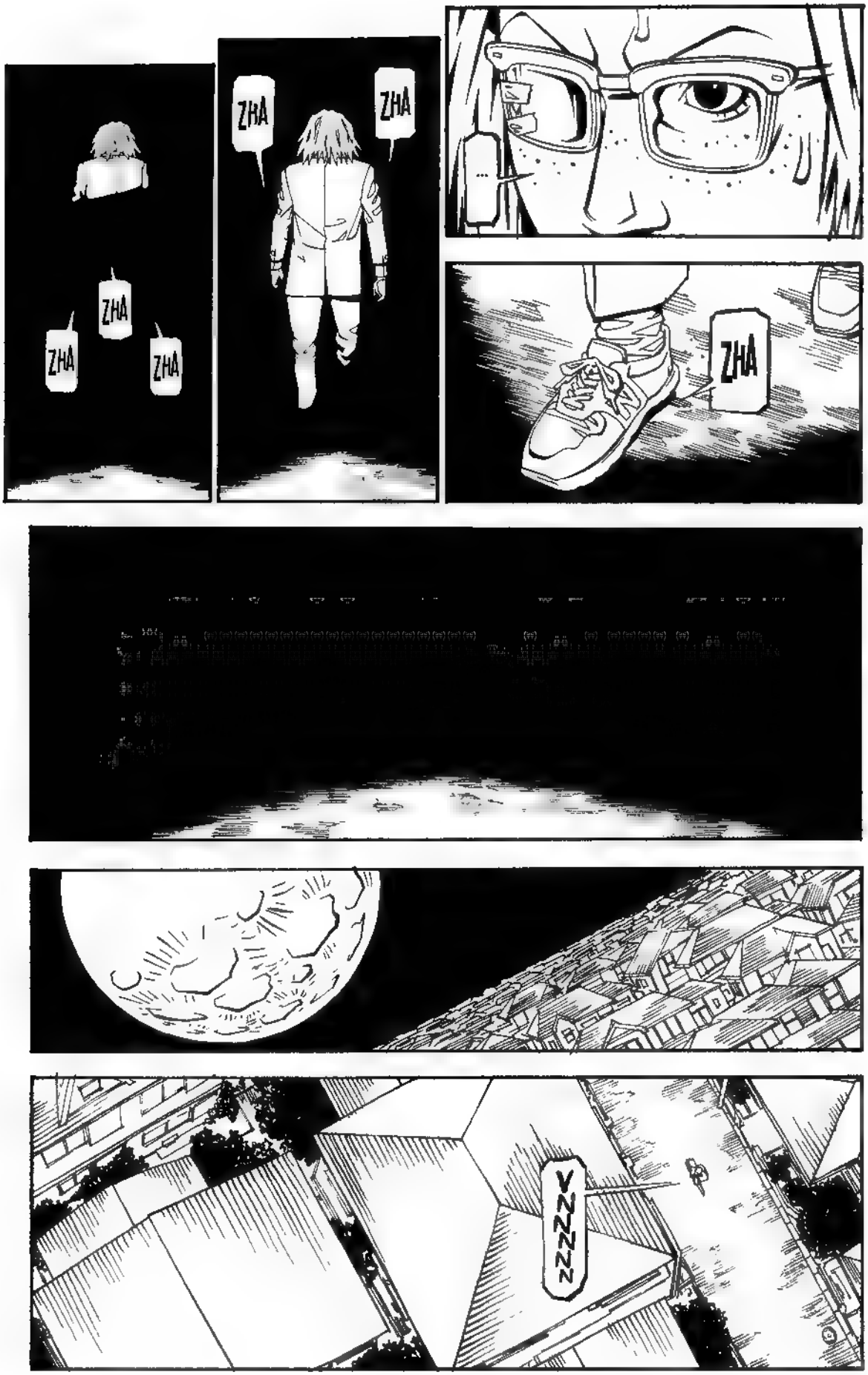
There are only two paths you can take, Lady Sword-master.
Play the fool like I did...
...or go as far as Yomogida did.
6
Hmm?
U-umm...
J-j-just one last question ...

What about Detective Yomogida's story...?
Ohh, I told him.
I couldn't help but tell him.
Wh-wh-why did he come to learn about the Soiru Village Case...?
S-S-Sergeant Yokoi...
...
He just kept on reading and rubbing his dick...
Who knows...?
...
The same expression that Yomogida had before he disappeared...
He had the same expression on his face.
Th-th-thank you for all your help...
G-g-good bye...
CREEE
Damn geezer.
He's just dying to talk about it, isn't he.

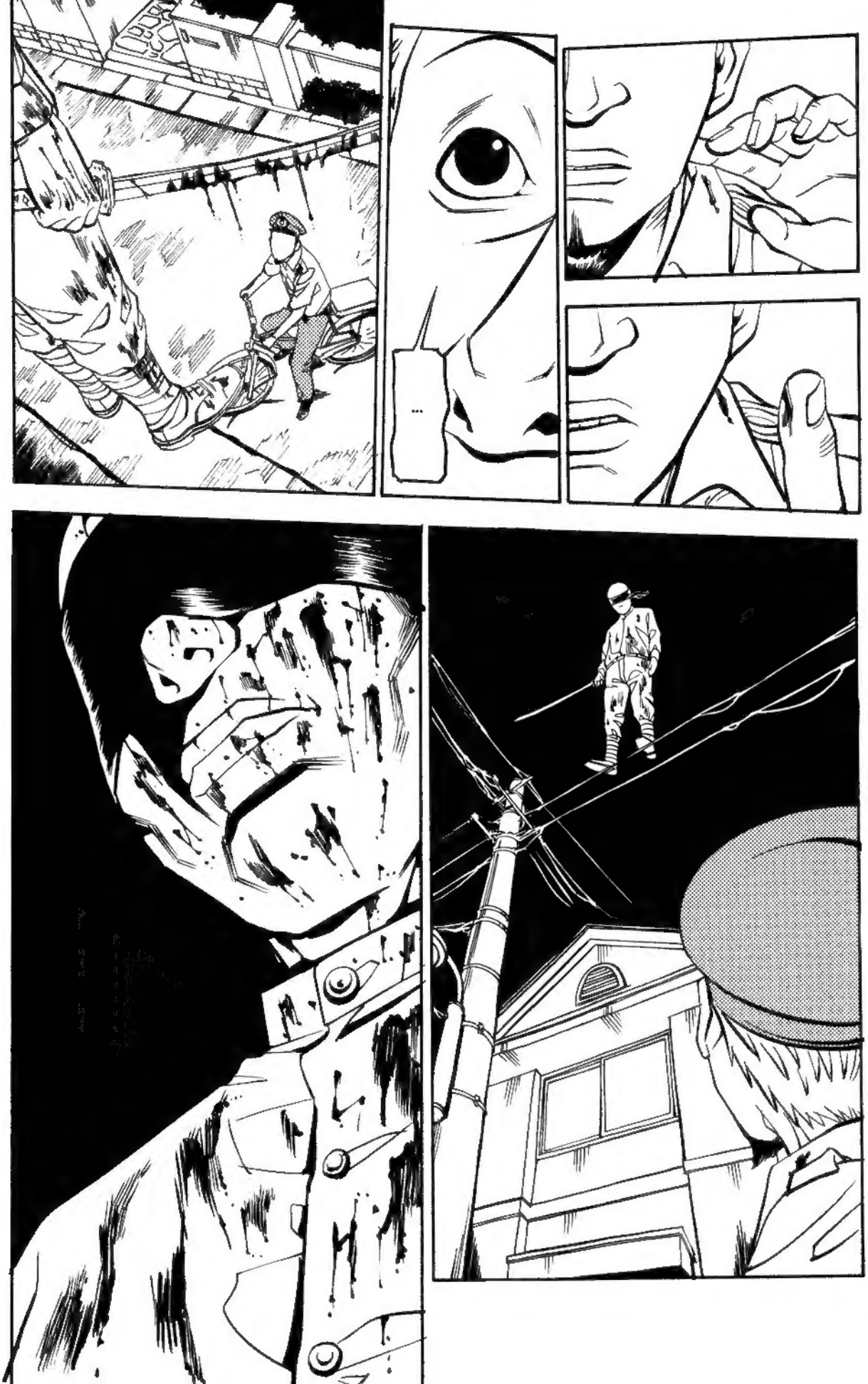

THMP

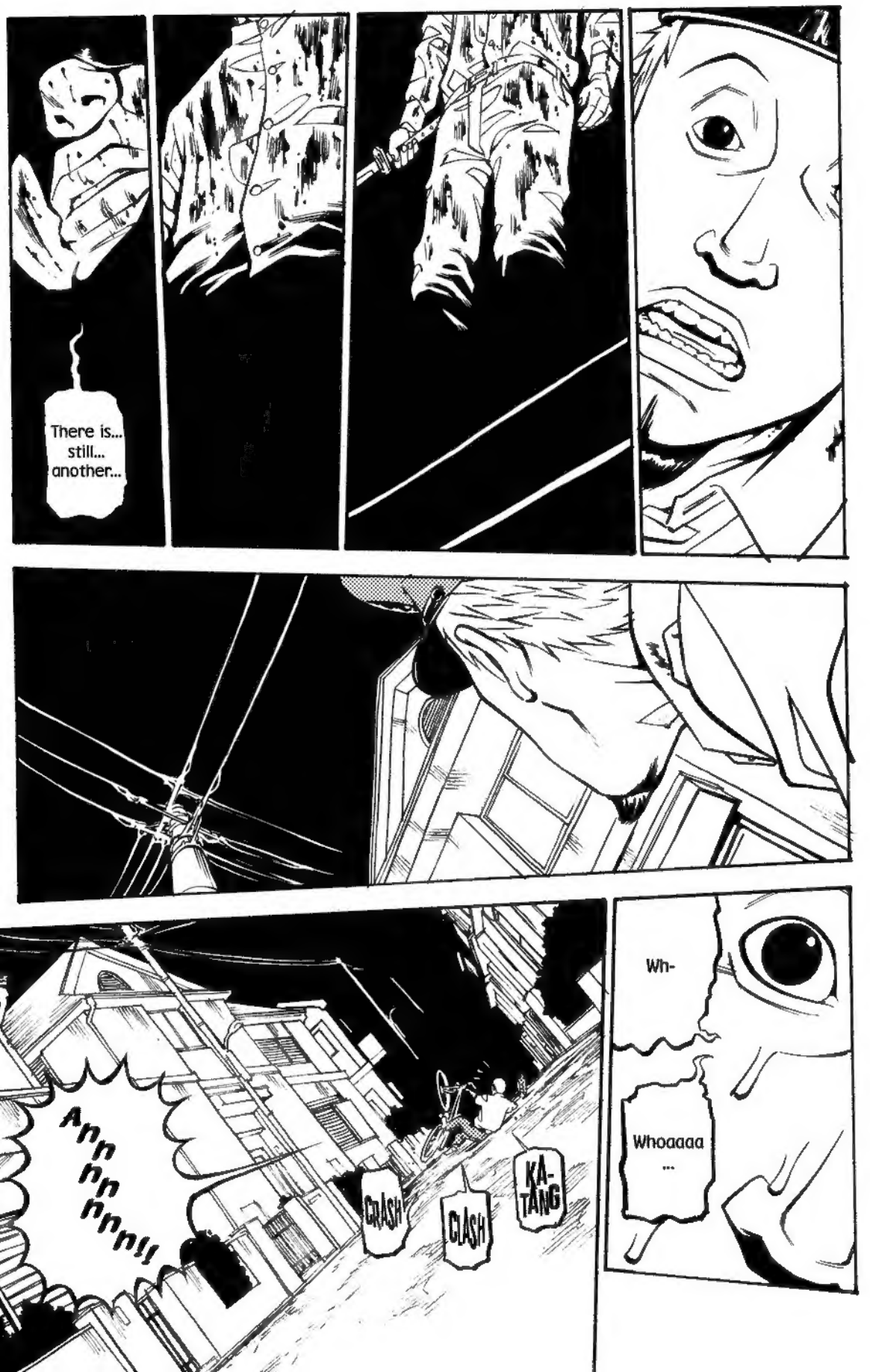





ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
VNZZZ

...at the staars of...
...a look ...
VNZZZ
Taaake ...
...the nilight ...
VNZZZ
What was that just now...?
Hm?
SWEE
DRIP
I better give 'em a good scolding, or else...
Ohh, I know. It must be those kids playing their pranks again...




There is... still... another...
Wh-
Whoaaaa...
KA-TANG
CLASH
CRASH
Arrrrrrrrr!!

VRRRR
ときわ町
TOKIWA CHOU
VRRRR
RRRRRR

SOIL［ソイル］4 END

To be continued in the next volume.

Two eras. Two detectives.
Similarly transfixed by the "foreign organisms" that have sprung up onto this land.
The blood-stained messenger frequents the night, and the scattered atrocities come together... Drawing a line that should never have been drawn...

A never-ending nightmare, woven with the fabric of madness.
This dark, ground-breaking mystery enters its 5th volume, into the heart of the chaotic storm.